

Hafa Adai!

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# Saipan Tribune

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## 'Give NMI economy a chance to grow'

By JON PEREZ  
[jon\\_perez@saipantribune.com](mailto:jon_perez@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The CNMI's labor and immigration issues are once again at the forefront

with the visit of a congressional delegation headed by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-1st Utah).

The delegation, more commonly known as a CODEL, arrived in the

CNMI yesterday and its first order of business was a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres joined

JON PEREZ  
The visiting congressional delegation led by chair Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah, fourth from left, joins Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fifth from right, in a wreath laying ceremony at the Court of Honor of the American Memorial Park.

Bishop and the rest of the delegation—Reps. Glenn Thompson (R-5th Pennsylvania) and Bruce Westerman (R-4th Arkansas), and Delegates

Amata Radewagan (R-American Samoa), Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
See ECONOMY on Page 4

## Camacho is OK'd as CUC chief

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

A federal judge approved yesterday Gary P. Camacho's appointment as executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.



Camacho

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter made the decision after CUC, the U.S. government, and the CNMI government informed the court of a joint stipulation that resolves the issue.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres was also allowed to explain why he supports Camacho's appointment as execu-

See CAMACHO on Page 4

extending the implementation of its schedule deadlines.

In his letter, a copy of which was furnished to the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, IPI chair Mark A. Brown listed nine reasons justifying their request to amend the casino license agreement, or CLA, to extend the

See IPI on Page 4

## IPI asks to extend deadline

By JON PEREZ  
[jon\\_perez@saipantribune.com](mailto:jon_perez@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International CNMI LLC has asked the CNMI government for an extension on its

deadlines.

In a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the company, which is building a casino hotel in Garapan, requested for an amendment to its casino license agreement in the hopes of

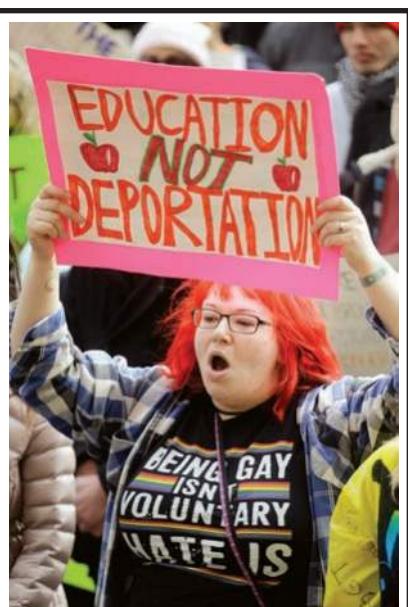
Millions targeted for possible deportation under Trump rules

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Millions of people living in the United States illegally could be targeted for deportation—including people simply arrested for traffic violations—under a sweeping rewrite of immigration enforcement poli-

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Demonstrators hold a rally Monday, Feb. 20, 2017, in Salt Lake City.



## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

The nation's largest retailer works to make headway against the largest online seller.

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### NATION

Hundreds are rescued from California floodwaters.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Right-wing writer Milo Yiannopoulos resigns as an editor at Breitbart News.

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# Local



## FIRE ALARM

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter, fourth from left, walks with a court staff, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency counsel and officials, and federal court security officers, on their way to Horiguchi Building yesterday at noon after the building was declared all clear a few minutes after a fire alarm went off. The building was evacuated and firefighters immediately responded. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the possible cause of the fire alarm was from smoke from an electronic cigarette.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



## **YAMAMOTO, CUSTODIAN ENTER SETTLEMENT DEAL**

### Judge orders release of M/V *Luta*

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
REPORTER  
FERDIE\_DELATORRE@SAIPANTRIBUNE.COM

A federal judge ordered yesterday the immediate release of cargo ship M/V *Luta* to its owners.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter gave the order after Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto reached a settlement agreement with the vessel's custodian, National Maritime Services Inc.

Following the settlement, Carter relieved NMS of its duties as custodian of M/V *Luta* and dismissed a previous threat to hold Yamamoto in contempt for not paying his share of custodial fees.

The settlement agreement between Yamamoto and NMS was kept confidential.

At yesterday's hearing, Carter first met with Yamamoto's counsel, George Lloyd Hasselback, and William Fitzgerald, who is counsel for the vessel's owner, Luta Mermaid LLC, and its members: Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III. Bruce Berline appeared as counsel for Norton Lilly International Inc.

Carter later announced that the parties have reached a settlement filed under seal. The judge also announced his ruling.

The written agreement requires Yamamoto to pay NMS for custodial fees.

On Tuesday, Yamamoto failed to personally appear at the scheduled hearing as he was reportedly in Hawaii. Hasselback and NMS counsel Sean Frink, however, informed the court about their

settlement discussions.

Carter then gave Yamamoto until yesterday, Wednesday, to settle with NMS his share of \$130,000 in custodial fees.

It was U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood who threatened Yamamoto with contempt two weeks ago for failing to pay his outstanding balance of \$130,000 in custodial fees. Yamamoto had already initially paid \$30,000 in custodial fees.

Tydingco-Gatewood directed Yamamoto to appear in court and explain why he should not be held in contempt for resisting the court's order for him to pay his share of custodial fees.

The vessel's crew, Long Consulting, and Norton Lilly have complied with the court's order by paying their shares for custodial fees in the total amount of \$28,916. The crew and the two companies are intervenors in Yamamoto's lawsuit against Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owners of M/V *Luta*.

Tydingco-Gatewood determined that Yamamoto's relationship with Abelina T. Mendiola and her family demonstrated he was a joint venture with them in M/V *Luta*.

Yamamoto is suing Hocog, Luta Mermaid, and the Mendiolas for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel. The vessel was seized shortly after the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship last Oct. 25. NMS was then appointed as substitute custodian of the vessel.

Yamamoto's several other claims in the lawsuit are pending in court.

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# Governor declares state of mourning for Aldan

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declared on Tuesday a state of mourning in the Commonwealth due to the recent passing of the mayor of the Northern Islands, Jerome K. Aldan.

In a proclamation that was signed Tuesday, the governor recognized the various accom-

plishments of the late mayor. Aldan died on Feb. 18. He was 43.

"Honorable Francisco Jerome Kaipat Aldan made monumental strides to improve the infrastructure while preserving and protecting the pristine lands and waters of the Northern Islands, serving as the Gani Islands resettlement and redevelopment plan-

ner, homestead development program planner, and Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service, or NMC CREES, agricultural master planner for Pagan," states the proclamation.

A state memorial service will be held for Aldan at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Monday, Feb.

27, starting at 9am. The occasion will include a 17-gun salute and full government detail. Official dignitaries from both the CNMI and throughout the region would have the opportunity to present official tributes to honor Aldan.

Following the state memorial services would be a Mass of Christian burial at 11am at the Mount Carmel Cathedral,

followed by interment of Aldan's remains at the Tanapag Public Cemetery.

"Mayor Aldan was a true public servant in every sense of the word," said Torres in a statement to the media. "[Aldan] advocated for the resettlement and preservation of the Northern Islands and renewed conversations on the reunification of the Marianas, along with continuing plans for the health and welfare of the constituents he was entrusted to represent."

Aldan is survived by his mother, Clotilde, his spouse

Norma, and his children: Zachary, Celina, Zasha, Zavannah, and Zodeanna.

Aldan is a son of former Northern Islands mayor Tobias DLC Aldan, who passed away in March 2015.

Aldan is also recognized as one of the youngest mayors in Commonwealth history.

According to a document released by the Office of the Governor, government employees interested in attending the memorial and funeral Mass may use their annual leave credits.

For additional information, contact the Office of the Governor at 237-2200 or senior policy adviser Glenna Reyes at 483-3278.



## PIKA FESTIVAL

Tinian residents enjoy the shade and ocean breeze at the 13th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 18-19, 2017, held at Tachogna Beach, Tinian, in the Marianas.

MVA

## Suspected 'ice' trafficker falls, 4 others arrested for burglary

A suspected trafficker of methamphetamine or "ice" was arrested yesterday, while four others were apprehended early this week for two separate burglaries on Saipan.

Songtao Gu, 42, also known as Another Way, Little Small Kingdom, and Gambler, was arrested on charges of trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Alvin Agulto Camacho, 43, and Franklin Tudela Pangelinan, 40, were apprehended for alleged burglary and theft.

Joaquin Reyes Crisostomo, 38, was held on charges of burglary, assault, assault and battery, resisting arrest, and disturbing the peace.

Waedyne Cepeda Maratita, 26, was detained for alleged burglary, assault, and disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on Gu and \$10,000 cash bail each on Camacho, Pangelinan, Crisostomo, and Maratita.

According to the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force, a cooperating defendant was able to purchase \$150 worth of "ice" from Gu last Feb. 17

at the latter's house in Garapan.

The cooperating defendant allegedly managed to buy \$80 more worth of "ice" from Gu during a "buy-walk" operation at his house last Tuesday.

In the case against Camacho and Pangelinan, police arrested the two on Monday morning after they allegedly went back to the house they had burglarized on Capital Hill. Police allegedly found inside their car some of the items that were stolen from the house last Friday.

In the third case, Crisostomo and Maratita allegedly broke into a house on Capital Hill on Monday morning after the couple left the residence, leaving behind their daughter. The girl was shocked and frightened upon seeing a woman, who was later identified as Maratita, holding a metal object and telling her not to move.

When Maratita exited the house, the girl grabbed a knife from the kitchen and called her parents. The girl's father immediately went back and saw the suspects' car. The father blocked the car with his vehicle.

The father struggled with Crisostomo. Police officers then arrived and secured Crisostomo. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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## MILLIONS

*From Page 1*

cies announced Tuesday by the Trump administration.

Any immigrant who is in the country illegally and is charged or convicted of any offense, or even suspected of a crime, will now be an enforcement priority, according to Homeland Security Department memos signed by Secretary John Kelly. That could include people arrested for shoplifting or minor offenses—or simply having crossed the border illegally.

The Trump administration memos replace narrower guidance focusing on immigrants who have been convicted of serious crimes, are considered threats to national security or are recent border crossers.

Under the Obama administration guidance, immigrants whose only violation was being in the country illegally were generally left alone. Those immigrants fall into two categories: those who crossed the border without permis-

sion and those who overstayed their visas.

Crossing the border illegally is a criminal offense, and the new memos make clear that those who have done so are included in the broad list of enforcement priorities.

Overstaying a visa is a civil, not criminal, offense. Those who do so are not specifically included in the priority list but, under the memos, they are still more likely to face deportation than they had been before.

The new enforcement documents are the latest efforts by

President Donald Trump to follow through on campaign promises to strictly enforce immigration laws. He's also promised to build a wall at the Mexican border—he insists Mexico will eventually foot the bill—and Kelly's memos reiterate calls for Homeland Security to start planning for the costs and construction.

Trump's earlier immigration orders, which temporarily banned all refugees as well as foreigners from seven Muslim-majority countries, have faced widespread criticism.

and legal action. A federal appeals court has upheld a temporary halt.

Kelly's enforcement plans call for enforcing a long-standing but obscure provision of immigration law that allows the government to send some people caught illegally crossing the Mexican border back to Mexico, regardless of where they are from. Those foreigners would wait in that country for U.S. deportation proceedings to be complete. This would be used for peo-

ple who aren't considered a threat to cross the border illegally again, the memo says.

That provision is almost certain to face opposition from civil libertarians and Mexican officials, and it's unclear whether the United States has the authority to force Mexico to accept third-country nationals. But the memo also calls for Homeland Security to provide an account of U.S. aid to Mexico, a possible signal that Trump plans to use that funding to get Mexico to accept the foreigners.

## IPI

*From Page 1*

36-month deadline but no later than 42 months, of completing the structure of the integrated resort.

The CLA between IPI and the CNMI Lottery Commission, which approved the license, was signed in 2014, giving the lone licensee on Saipan the deadline of finishing the casino resort this year.

Imperial Pacific Resort was scheduled to have a soft opening last Lunar New Year, Jan. 28, but moved it to the first

quarter of 2017 or in March. Brown cited CLA's Section II, which states "the Office of the Governor shall have authority for enforcement of the terms and conditions of [the] license agreement except for the elements specifically identified for control by the [Commonwealth] Casino Commission."

Torres, in a statement, said they have already received the legal opinion of the Office of the Attorney General regarding the CLA and are already reviewing it. He said he appreciates the OAG's concerns but disagrees with

some of the details and conclusions in the opinion.

*Saipan Tribune* tried to get a copy of the OAG opinion but acting Attorney General Lillian A. Tenorio declined to provide one.

"It appears that portions of AG's opinion have somehow been received by Imperial Pacific who wrote [to us yesterday] and requested an opportunity to address the concerns raised in the legal opinion," said Torres, who added they are also reviewing IPI's letter.

He said he sees this as a chance to consider amending the CLA "to slow the rate of

development on the island of Saipan and to plan for a more sustainable growth rate that allows for the island's infrastructure, cultural, and environmental impacts and other overall economic considerations to keep pace with the economic consequences resulting from the introduction of gaming on Saipan."

CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said IPI still has more than two months to operate its temporary Live Training Facility at the T Galeria. "[IPI's] temporary Live Training Facility was approved by the CNMI Lottery

Commission. They are authorized to operate up to the end of April 2017."

"As such, they are not in breach of this part of the Casino License Agreement as we are still in February."

### IPI's reasons

Brown said Typhoon Soudelor's onslaught on Saipan in August 2015 also had an impact on their construction site in Garapan. "At the starting phase of construction, [IPI] had one heavy equipment: an auger and two pile drive machines."

The auger is used to drill

holes up to 60 feet in order for the drive pile machines to drive the piles for another 60 to 130 feet for the structure's foundation. "The auger was extensively damaged during the storm, rendering it inoperable."

Limited cement supply, unpredictable ground condition, dewatering issues, air rights agreement for tower cranes, inclement weather, lack of readily available skilled laborers, length of time to execute public land lease for Garapan, and Mariana Resort & Spa's lease expiration are the other reasons cited by Brown.

## CAMACHO

*From Page 1*

tive director.

"I'm going to approve it. Congratulations, Mr. Camacho. You deserve it," said Carter, acknowledging that he was not aware before of how Camacho's leadership was instrumental in the CNMI's recovery efforts after the August 2015 devastation of Typhoon Soudelor.

Carter told CUC board members who were present in the courtroom that he is not intruding on the board.

"Let's get it done," Carter said.

The CUC board earlier asked the court to allow it to appoint Camacho to the position, which he currently holds in an acting capacity. Yesterday, CUC board chair Adelina Roberto and other directors

were seen beaming and nodding their head.

Camacho's wife and some family members and friends were also in the courtroom.

In an interview after the hearing, Camacho expressed appreciation to Carter, the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Torres, and the board.

Camacho said he understands the challenges that he and CUC face.

"Nobody wants the stipulated orders to succeed more than the people that live here, the employees at CUC, because it's an issue that involves quality service, and health and other things...pertaining to our water and wastewater services," Camacho said.

The executive director position has been vacant since July 2015 when the contract of then-executive director Alan Fletcher was allowed to lapse.

On Dec. 14, 2015, the CUC board designated Camacho, the Power Division manager, as acting executive director. The board did not submit Camacho's name to EPA for review and approval.

CUC then asked the court to waive the qualification requirement under stipulated order 1 in order to allow Camacho serve as the executive director.

SO1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater issues. It also restructures CUC's organization to reflect a typically functioning utility and requires that key employees have appropriate education and experience levels.

Bradley R. O'Brien, counsel for EPA and senior attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section, stated yesterday that the U.S. government hopes to have a positive working relationship with Camacho.

O'Brien stressed that EPA takes stipulated order 1 requirements seriously.

Carter said there is a huge amount of expectation from Camacho.

Carter said the stipulation asserts that the U.S. government does not approve but will not object to Camacho's appointment as executive director and reaffirms the continued commitment of CUC to comply with stipulated orders 1 and 2 requirements.

According to the stipulation that Carter read, the parties agree that the stipulation does not modify SO1 and that if Camacho is appointed, EPA will not seek penalties under SO1 in connection with his appointment.

CUC does not agree that it will not seek waivers of the SO1 minimum hiring requirements for various SO1 positions in the future.

However, CUC has no intention at this time to seek future waivers of the SO1 hiring requirements, and CUC will continue to hire candidates to fill future SO1 position vacancies that meet or exceed the minimum requirements.

If Camacho is appointed as the executive director, he will continue to be committed to CUC's compliance with SO1 and stipulated order, according to the stipulation.

CUC reaffirms its intention of working together with EPA under its current practice of submitting potential candidates for vetting to EPA prior to such candidates being offered a position by CUC.

EPA will review the candidates' qualifications and inform CUC of its determination whether the candidates meet the minimum requirements, the stipulation states.

O'Brien, CUC counsel

James Sirok, and special assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan are the signatories of the joint stipulation.

Torres shared with the court his experience and observation about the devastation of the island after Soudelor.

Torres said Camacho, who had the operating CUC crew, was able to step up by coordinating with other agencies and taking the initiative to get assistance from Guam and regional partners.

The governor described Camacho as "very aggressive" and whose leadership was "incredible" during the recovery efforts.

Carter extended his compliment to the people of Saipan for the recovery.

"The spirit was amazing," the judge said as he also complimented Torres, his staff and others involved in the recovery efforts.

## ECONOMY

*From Page 1*

(D-Guam), and Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon (R-Puerto Rico)—at the wreath-laying ceremony.

It was Sablan who invited Bishop and the rest of the delegation to visit the CNMI.

Torres, in his initial meeting with the CODEL, informed them of the CNMI's current situation regarding the CNMI-Only Transitional Nonimmigrant Worker (CW1) visa program and the China visa waiver program. The meeting is similar to

what transpired in Washington, D.C.

"Their visit is very important in magnitude since they saw first-hand the work being done here, especially for chairman Bishop. It gave him the chance to see some answers on the questions they asked when we met them in [Washington], D.C. They saw the constant work being done with the integrated resort," said Torres.

Bishop chairs the House Committee on Natural Resources and its subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation. His committee handles discussions and

legislations involving the U.S. insular areas like the CNMI.

Torres said he informed Bishop and the entire CODEL that the changes they are asking for in regards to labor and immigration would give the CNMI's economy the chance to further improve. "Again, we're emphasizing that we're not asking for them to bail us out. We're just asking them to give us the opportunity for growth."

"Our economy has never grown like this. The economic growth that we're seeing is a big improvement in the last 20 to 30 years. We've experienced an 89-percent growth in

revenue and the people are in a better economic situation now. We can see more vehicles now on the road with people complaining about congestion and traffic."

Torres again thanked Sablan for inviting Bishop and the entire CODEL. "They are impressed with our island and our structures. Good thing the weather cooperated but there was a little bit of rain. They enjoyed Saipan in their short stay."

Torres also brought up the China visa waiver program and its importance to the CNMI's tourism industry. The administration of President

Donald Trump had been tough on immigration and had a brief spat with China when he received a congratulatory call from Taiwan President Tsai Ing Wen.

China continues its claim that Taiwan is one of its provinces, but the latter had reiterated its independence.

"We also emphasized our concerns on the China visa waiver and its importance. That is why we're putting all our efforts to inform them of these issues, how critical it is for us to maintain the China visa waiver [program], not just for tourism but also for business," said Torres.

The CODEL arrived on Saipan at 2pm yesterday. Aside from the wreath-laying, the group also offered a bouquet at the World War II memorial to pay their respect to civilians who died in one of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific.

They would fly to Tinian today and will be welcomed by Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas to also check the historical sites and the areas the U.S. military plans to use for its activities. The group then flies to Rota in the afternoon and from there would go to Guam before returning to the mainland. The CODEL had also been to Hawaii and American Samoa.

## Tenorio replaces Cabrera as Corrections chief

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has appointed Lino Tenorio as the new Department of Corrections commissioner, replacing Georgia Cabrera, who resigned early this month. Tenorio's appointment was effective last Feb. 17.

Tenorio has been reporting at Corrections in an acting capacity pending his confirmation by the CNMI Senate. The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, headed by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), will schedule

his confirmation hearing.

His appointment is based on Article III of the CNMI Constitution, which states that department heads will be appointed by the governor to fill positions under the government's executive branch.

Tenorio is required to file his statement of financial interest with the Office of the Public Auditor, and submit other requirements as required by the Senate. He previously held the DoC position before being relieved of his post by then-governor Benigno R. Fitial in 2009.

Torres has also requested him to furnish the Governor's

Office with his résumé, SFI stamped by OPA, police clearance, and drug test receipt.

"I am fully confident that you are qualified and will consistently devote your time and efforts to fulfill the vital responsibilities of this office, and will be an asset to the Commonwealth. Your willingness to serve our people is most appreciated," said

Torres in Tenorio's appointment letter.

The Office of the Governor has already provided the Senate with a copy of Tenorio's appointment in order for Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) to direct Cruz to schedule a public hearing for the confirmation of the former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner for operations.

"I'm confident that Tenorio's years of service in the

department, including his qualification to fulfill the vital responsibilities of the office, will be an asset to my administration and the CNMI," added Torres.

Torres' office will forward Tenorio's documents to the Senate once they become available.

Cabrera submitted her resignation last Feb. 8, a few days after Torres requested all Cabinet members for their courtesy resignation. She resigned to focus on other things

under DoC where she believes she would be more effective.

"I sincerely appreciated you serving as [DoC] commissioner. I understand the duties and responsibilities of your office and value the tremendous contributions you have made to the department, my administration, and the Commonwealth," said Torres in his letter to Cabrera.

Torres has also offered Cabrera the position to be the director of DoC's Civil Division.

## NMI Judiciary OKs new fees

On Tuesday Feb. 21, 2017, the Commonwealth Supreme Court issued an administrative order to replace the Judiciary's October 2006 fee schedule with a new one.

The new fee schedule is effective March 1, 2017, and

applies to all court filings and services.

Copies of the order and the fee schedule are available on the Law Revision Commission's website at [www.cnmi-law.org](http://www.cnmi-law.org) for reference or printing. (*Saipan Tribune*)

### ERRATUM

In a story published in the Feb. 21, 2017, issue of *Saipan Tribune* titled "MVA forms task force for long wait times," it was erroneously reported that a Marianas Visitors Authority task force would consist of MVA board members Jerry Tan and Tommy Kim. According to MVA, the task force will actually consist of MVA board members Tommy Kim and Chris Nelson. We apologize for the error.



### REGGAE BAND

Homegrown reggae band Uprooted opens the 13th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 18, 2017, with all-original tracks.

**See story on Page 7**

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## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Pacific Prime Properties, Inc.  
dba Beacon Hill Condominium

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Pacific Prime Properties, Inc., dba Beacon Hill Condominium is proposing to amend their Conditional Use Permit No. 2016-0136 to increase number of rooms and parking spaces, and change in development plans and parking layout. This use is classified as "Planned Development" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot 069 D 05 in Navy Hill. It is zoned as Rural.

**Date:** March 02, 2017  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Zoning Board Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr, Joeten Dandan Comm'l Building, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 01, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman



**Commonwealth Development Authority**  
2nd Floor CDA Bldg., Oleai, Saipan  
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-6245 Fax: (670) 235-7147  
Website: www.developcnmi.com

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**POSITION VACANCY:** Administrative Specialist II, Classified Position  
**LOCATION:** Rota Office  
**ANNUAL SALARY:** \$16,858.38 - \$20,484.60  
**CLOSING DATE:** February 24, 2017

#### NATURE OF WORK

The position is under the supervision of the Office Manager, Saipan. The individual works in conjunction with Saipan personnel and require coordination with the various departments in order to accomplish a variety of responsibilities. This position is tasked with promoting CDA's mission in Rota. The position has some degree of independence such as the management of daily activities-revising workflow to suit the agency.

#### GENERAL DUTIES:

- Issues loan applications and explains basic application requirements.
- Organizes and coordinates CDA related functions and events.
- Organizes and coordinates deliveries and pick-ups and routes necessary documents for Board signature.
- Prepares and submits monthly activity report to Administration, Saipan.
- Receives and receipts all payments.
- Prepares and deposits collections on a daily basis.
- Prepares daily collection report and submits to Accounting Dept, Saipan.
- Submits daily receipts on a monthly basis to Accounting Dept. Saipan.
- Performs related work as assigned.

#### QUALIFICATION and OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Any combination equivalent to Bachelor Degree plus (2) years of related work experience in office management or staff. Knowledge of modern office practices and modern office equipment; Knowledge of MS Office word processing and spreadsheet applications; Ability to express oneself effectively, orally and in writing; and have excellent organizational skills.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with an employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC/CDA Office in Rota or may be obtained on CDA's website at [www.developcnmi.com](http://www.developcnmi.com).

**Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management in Rota.**

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at [c.kintol@developcnmi.com](mailto:c.kintol@developcnmi.com).

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Yong Shun Corporation  
dba Chang Ming Car Wash

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Yong Shun Corporation dba Chang Ming Car Wash is proposing to operate a car wash facility. This use is classified as "Vehicle Repair, General" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot 004 D 54 in Garapan. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

**Date:** March 02, 2017  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Zoning Board Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr, Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 01, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
SKT Company Ltd.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. SKT Company Ltd. is proposing to operate a farm with motel village consisting of 50 motel units within 53,939sm of land. This use is classified as a "Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot EA 101-1 and TR 22602 in Kannat Tabla. It is zoned as Rural.

**Date:** March 02, 2017  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Zoning Board Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr, Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 01, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

### TOURISM MEETING

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Japan Marianas Tourism Club held its semi-annual meeting on Feb. 20, 2017, at Hyatt Regency Saipan. JMTC is composed of private and public travel industry representatives and aims to strengthen tourism in the Marianas from Japan. Participating offices and organizations were: CNMI Office of the Lt. Governor, Consul of Japan, Northern Marianas Legislature, Marianas Visitors Authority, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, R&C Tours, JTB World Vacations, H.I.S. Tokyo, KNT-CT Holdings, KNT Individual Tour Co. Ltd., Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Japan Saipan Travel Association.

## NMI to get \$5M CIP funds to continue power plant rehab, improve oil waste management

### WASHINGTON, D.C.—

Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula has approved \$5 million in fiscal year 2017 CIP funding for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in the CNMI for the repair of fuel storage tanks, which fail to meet required standards of the American Petroleum Institute.

"Repairing the fuel tanks and improving fuel waste management is critical for the health and safety of residents on the island," said Pula. "We are pleased to provide the funds for it."

The \$5 million continues to help the territory meet requirements of U.S. District Court stipulated order 2 related to oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response at the CUC facility on Saipan.

Beginning in 2009, the courts ordered the CNMI

government through CUC to complete various projects related to rehabilitating infrastructure and improving management at the CUC.

This year's projects are related specifically to cleaning, inspecting, and repairing fuel tanks to meet regulations and prohibit leakage into the Saipan lagoon; repairing and strengthening the surrounding containment area; planning, designing, and installing new systems, equipment, and practices to improvement management of non-hazardous solid and liquid waste including oil and oil-impacted solid materials.

The Office of Insular Affairs has awarded \$5 million each in fiscal years 2015 and 2016 toward complying with the court order and is expected to provide a final year of assistance to complete this effort in 2018. (*OIA*)



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL INVITATION TO BID MVA-ITB-17-2001

#### LIFEGUARD, SECURITY, MAINTENANCE, AND CLEANING SERVICES AT SELECT TOURIST SITES

Submission Date: March 27, 2017 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority P.O. Box 500861 CK Saipan, MP 96950

A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017 at 10:00 am in the MVA main conference room.

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting [MVA](http://www.mymarianas.com) website at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce  
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher Concepcion  
Managing Director

## Pika Festival highlights Tinian's best

Tropical heat, hospitality, and the heat of "donne sali" (hot pepper) were the highlights of the 13<sup>th</sup> Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 18-19, 2017.

Storm clouds earlier in the week made way for beautiful, blue skies at Tachogña Beach, Tinian, where sunshine danced across the Philippine Sea as islanders performed on a nearby stage. Live entertainment over the weekend ranged from the homegrown reggae band Uprooted opening the festival, to young people showcasing indigenous Chamorro dance, to T-shirt-clad teenagers rendering modern moves.

In booths decorated with coconut fronds and hot peppers, vendors offered a mouthwatering assortment of international cuisine laced with the island's famous pepper, such as the Chamorro "tamales gisu" (cornmeal dish) and "coco papaya" (pickled papaya), samosa, and chocolate brownies.

"This was my first ever Pika Festival, and it was as exciting and tasty as I imagined," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, who joined the festivities on Sunday. "I had the honor of judging the 'estafao pika' (spicy meat dish) contest and it was pretty hot. Tinian is famous for their 'donne sali' and I am a big fan, so it was tons of fun."

Numerous competitions were held. In a field of seasoned locals and brave visitors, Jay Jess San Nicholas downed his bowl of "donne sali"-laced soba to displace last year's champion. In the women's heat on Sunday, Valerie Naputi emerged this year's top winner. The participants were all rewarded with cooling ice cream after their feat. JC Café also hosted a burger eating contest and winners of both the hot pepper and burger



Marianas Visitors Authority board member Juan Barcenas and MVA staff receive a plaque of appreciation from Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, in white, at the 13th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 18, 2017, in the Marianas. Also pictured are Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth from left, and other dignitaries.

MVA

eating contests received cell phones from IT&E.

JC Café finished first in the dragon boat race, joined by Guerrero Team and T Roots in the competition. Under the pine trees between the circle of booths and the crystal clear ocean, Adahe' bested all other teams to win the beach volleyball contest. Adult and chil-

dren's sack races, as well as a children's "umang" (hermit crab) race, were also held.

"This year's festival was another success, thanks to the partnership of the Tinian Mayor's Office, the Tinian Municipal Council, and the people of Tinian," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "This year we were

able to provide a shuttle between the airport, seaport, and festival grounds, which made it even more convenient for visitors. We thank everyone who supported the event, and we look forward to next year."

Additional sponsors and supporters were Bridge Capital Inc. and MARPAC.

The Tinian Hot Pepper Fes-

tival is held each Presidents Day weekend in February.

The 65K Pika Bike Race was cancelled, due to inclement weather that forced the cancellation of Friday's ferry that bikers had booked to travel on. Ferry refunds are available by visiting the MVA office or calling 664-3200/01. (MVA)

## PACIFIC TRADING CO., LTD.

P.O. Box 500236, Saipan MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 322-6624 / 5483 Fax: (670) 322-5616

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Job Title: Accountant/Bookkeeper

The incumbent in this position will be responsible for processing accounts receivables and payable. Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. The employee may be assigned to prepare BGRT, excise tax, daily sales and collections reports.

##### Tasks:

- Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information.
- Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes.
- Classify, record, and summarize numerical and financial data to compile and keep financial records, using journals and ledgers or computers.
- Debit, credit, and total accounts on computer spreadsheets and databases, using specialized accounting software.
- Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents.
- Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.
- Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations.
- Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such matters as cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, and profits and losses.
- Code documents according to company procedures.
- Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

**Qualification:** Any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting plus two years of related work experience. Knowledge in AccPac software is desirable.

PTC offers a competitive salary to correspond with experience and qualification. Interested person may pick up an employment application at our office in Puerto Rico. Deadline for submission is **no later than 5:00pm on February 28, 2017**. Pacific Trading Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

#### (Amended) Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 02, 2017

5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room  
2nd Fl., Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp)

##### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 2/09/17 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

##### B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0236:** SKT Company Ltd. is proposing to operate a farm with motel village consisting of 50 motel units within 53,939sm of land. This use is classified as a "Motel" and will be located on Lot EA 101-1-1 and TR 22602 in Kannat Tabla. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0533:** Yong Shun Corporation dba Chang Ming Car Wash is proposing to operate a car wash facility. This use is classified as "Vehicle Repair, General" and will be located on Lot 004 D 54 in Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0646 (Amendment):** Beacon Hill Condominium is proposing to amend their Conditional Use Permit No. 2016-0136 to increase number of rooms and parking spaces, and change in development plans and parking layout. This use is classified as "Planned Development" and will be located on Lot 069 D 05 in Navy Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

##### C. Communication

##### D. Old Business

##### E. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

##### F. Executive (Closed) Session

##### G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

##### H. Adjourn

## Island kingdom of Tonga mourns the death of its queen mother

**NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga** (AP)—The South Pacific island kingdom of Tonga is

mourning the death of its queen mother, who dedicated her time to helping the elderly

and those with disabilities.

Halaevalu Mata'aho died Sunday at the age of 90 in Auckland, New Zealand, after traveling there for health reasons. The cause of her death has not been released by her family.

Her funeral procession will be held in Tonga on Feb. 28, when

most people in the country of just over 100,000 are expected to turn out wearing black.

She will be particularly missed by the Alonga Center and at the Tonga Red Cross,

where leaders say she worked tirelessly.

She was the mother of two kings: George Tupou V, who died in 2012, and the current monarch, King Tupou VI.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Saipan SDA to host 5K Hope Run

The Saipan SDA School 5K Hope Run will take place this Sunday, Feb. 26. The race starts at 6:30am and the course is from the Garapan Fishing Base to the Trankun Da'uk (the green and yellow pavilion across from the courthouse). (PR)

**'Talk to Your Rep' on Friday**

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd., is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

##### Executive Assistants (2)

**Key Functions:** The Executive Assistant will help the Executive Officer and the President maintain organizational relationships and act as the main point of contact particularly for business partners and customers in and from China, as well as colleagues and peers in the local Chinese Community. The Executive Assistant should support the management of the President's time and calendar to ensure that the President is fully informed and prepared for all meetings with such stakeholders and to assist in organizing events. The Executive Assistant should be highly organized, able to multi-task and manage multiple time-sensitive demands, have exceptional inter-personal and communication skills and support the mission of the organization. This professional must possess a combination of strategic thinking skills and the demonstrated ability to implement and manage the daily logistical demands of a project centered staffs who work cross functionally to respond to the needs of the organization and its constituents.

**Job Requirements:** Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and/or Information Technology. With excellent English and Chinese communication skills both oral and written. Must possess experience in MS Office suite. One-year related experience in administrative type functions an advantage. Service-oriented, with strong organizational skills, active listening and active learning is required. Must be open to a variety of responsibilities, changing assignments, and be an overall team player.

##### Operations Manager (1)

Responsible in planning and implementation of the overall business direction of the company. Responsible for creating production and marketing plans and making sure these plans are implemented and targets are achieved accordingly.

**Job Requirement:** Graduate of a 4-year degree course and with a minimum of 6 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in business operations. Must have experience in business operation reporting, contract negotiation with suppliers and service contractors including identifying new business opportunities. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

##### Building Cleaner (1)

High School Diploma or equivalent. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: detailed oriented, responsible. Interpersonal skills: Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina: Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days.

##### General Maintenance Workers (2)

High school diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training, and experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, grounds keeping, appliance repair, and electrical wiring; standard practices and use a variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities and cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects, willing to work flexible hours which may include holidays and weekends.

##### IT - Network Administrator Assistant (1)

Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. At least 2 years of work related experience or equivalent training and skills in local and wide area networks management and administration. Must be Cisco Certified, with knowledge in system configuration, set up and troubleshooting for both hardware and software. Must have knowledge of Spiceworks. Can work flexible hours depending on demand.

##### Programmer Analyst (1)

Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming or information technology and at least 3 years of progressive work-related experience in information technology. Must have strong practical knowledge in various programming languages, operating systems and relational databases management particularly in midrange Relational Database Management System (RDMS) environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

##### Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic (1)

Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

**L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**  
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Residents of Garapan, Gualo Rai, Navy Hill, and Chinatown are invited to the "Talk to Your Rep" event on Friday, Feb. 24, at 6pm at the Carolinian *utt*. This is a community outreach for residents of these villages to discuss concerns and share ideas with Rep. Ivan A. Blanco.

The date and time for the March meeting will be announced later for residents of Capital Hill, Sadog Tasi, Chalan Kiya, Oleai, and contiguous areas in Precinct 3. (PR)

#### SHEFA deadline for supporting documents

The deadline to submit supporting documents for SHEFA applicants is on Feb. 28, 2017, a Tuesday. Please make sure to have all complete documents before submission. (PR)

#### SHRM meeting speaker to talk of CW program future

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter's meeting this month will feature Juan Carlos Benitez, executive director of the Guam Republican Party. He will address the present status of the CNMI's CW program. This is open to the public. Benitez will provide an opportunity for questions.

This SHRM lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017, from 11:30am to 1:30 pm. The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited; for reservations contact Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5868. (SHRM)

#### Navy training in Barrigada

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct a training exercise at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada today, Feb. 23, between 7pm and midnight. The training involves various scenarios designed to enhance tactical readiness and will incorporate blank ammunition fired from military helicopters. The training event will be held over the immediate golf course area. Residents are advised to not be alarmed if they see or hear an increase in military presence in the vicinity of the Nimitz golf course. (PR)

gada today, Feb. 23, between 7pm and midnight. The training involves various scenarios designed to enhance tactical readiness and will incorporate blank ammunition fired from military helicopters. The training event will be held over the immediate golf course area. Residents are advised to not be alarmed if they see or hear an increase in military presence in the vicinity of the Nimitz golf course. (PR)

#### 9th JP Glow Walk on Feb. 24

TanHoldings will be holding its 9th Annual JP Walk this Friday, Feb. 24. Registration is \$10 per person, inclusive of a free shirt (while supplies last) and a raffle ticket. The fair will start at 5pm. Pick up registration forms at the JP Center Bldg. along Beach Road in Garapan or register at the site starting at 4pm. There will be two routes. The 3K will start from the Garapan Fishing Base to the turning point across Gold Beach Hotel and there will be a turning point at Quartermaster Road intersection for the 5K. Funds raised from the event will go to the 2017 Marianas March Against Cancer on behalf of TanHoldings. For more information, call Eunice Angeles at (670) 235-0561. (PR)

#### Air Force training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Feb. 24, from 10am to 3:45pm. The general

Century Insurance Company, Ltd., is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

##### Accountants (1)

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management, payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

##### Claims Adjuster (1)

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree. Preferably with at least 4 years of work experience in a non-life insurance company particularly in claims. Must also have knowledge in automotive damage adjusting and/or estimation. Must be hard working, self-motivated team player with excellent communication and time management skills. Computer literate on Microsoft Office and Oracle based system program. Ideal candidate should be able to evaluate, monitor and adjust claims in accordance with the Claims Processing and Settlement Procedures; attends directly to claimants and auto shops, and will work closely with agents on claims. Generates claims reports and statistics for reinsurance, inter-department and management info requirements.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

**Century Insurance Company, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**  
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

#### MIFICPA tax seminar on Feb. 25

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPA's and Accountants will be hosting their annual tax seminar on Feb. 25 at the Raraina, Aqua Resort Club, from 8am to noon. This year's focus will be on tax updates for 2016 and 2017, changes in tax laws, tax filing requirements, and others.

David Burger, CPA, will be conducting the seminar. He is the managing partner of Burger, Comer, and Magliari.

Registration starts at 7:30am. Registration fee for members is \$20. Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee.

If you have any questions, email Angie Mamaril at angiemamaril@yahoo.com, Lois Manese at eloisa\_moanese@yahoo.com, Rose Badidoy at roseann.badidoy@yahoo.com, Butch Ordas at butchordas@yahoo.com, Gloria Balila at mgmbalila@yahoo.com, Michael Anthony Jordan at mkho\_22@yahoo.com or Yho Villaviencio at yhubowl300@gmail.com. (PR)

#### Xavier entrance exam on Feb. 25

The Xavier High School entrance written exam will be administered on Feb. 25, at

Century Finance Company, Ltd., is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

##### General Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 5 years of extensive work-experience as an Accountant in a financing or commercial/credit loan business. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO and Loan Management Information Systems, MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Finance Company, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan.

Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

**Century Finance Company, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**  
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Century Travel Agency, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

##### TRAVEL AGENT

Plan and sell transportation and accommodations for travel agency customers. Determine destination, modes of transportation, travel dates, costs, and accommodations required. May also describe, plan, and arrange itineraries and sell tour packages. May assist in resolving clients' travel.

##### QUALIFICATION:

College graduate preferred with at least 5 years work-related experience in travel agencies. Proficient in the use of Amadeus system and other similar selling platforms. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Travel Agency, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

**Century Travel Agency, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**  
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are welcome to apply.



# Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 17-014 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Laboratory Technician

**LOCATION(S):** Water & Wastewater Laboratory, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-015 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Assistant

**LOCATION(S):** Water & Wastewater Engineering, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-016 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Engineering Technician (Construction Inspector)

**LOCATION(S):** Water & Wastewater Engineering, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-017 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Junior Engineer

**LOCATION(S):** Water & Wastewater Laboratory, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-018 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Assistant

**LOCATION(S):** Wastewater Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** Six (6).

JVA No. 17-019 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Direct Responsible Charge

**LOCATION(S):** Wastewater Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-020 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Assistant

**LOCATION(S):** Water Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-021 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Technician

**LOCATION(S):** Water Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** Two (2).

JVA No. 17-022 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Senior Trades Technician

**LOCATION(S):** Water Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-023 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Foreperson

**LOCATION(S):** Water Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-024 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Supervisor

**LOCATION(S):** Water Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-025 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Utility Coordinator (Water System Operations Supervisor)

**LOCATION(S):** Water Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-026 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Technician: Operator

**LOCATION(S):** Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** Six (6).

JVA No. 17-027 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Technician: Mechanic

**LOCATION(S):** Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** Twelve (12).

JVA No. 17-028 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Technician: Electrical

**LOCATION(S):** Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** Five (5).

JVA No. 17-029 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Technician: Warehouse

**LOCATION(S):** Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-030 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Foreperson: Mechanic

**LOCATION(S):** Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-031 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Trades Foreperson: Electrical

**LOCATION(S):** Power Generation, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-032 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Safety Compliance Administrator

**LOCATION(S):** Administration / Safety Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-033 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Safety Compliance Technician

**LOCATION(S):** Administration / Safety Office, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-034 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Assistant Engineer: Mechanical

**LOCATION(S):** Rota Power Plant, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-035 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Assistant Engineer: Electrical

**LOCATION(S):** Rota Power Plant, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

JVA No. 17-036 Opening Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Closing Date: Thursday, March 09, 2017

### Senior Engineering Technician

**LOCATION(S):** Water & Wastewater Engineering, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.  
**SALARY:** (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)  
**POSITION(S):** One (1).

For minimum requirements and full description, stop by or contact the Human Resource Office.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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### EDITORIAL

## It's hard enough being a refugee in America

President Donald Trump and his team have had to do a good deal of explaining in court about his now-suspended 120-day ban on refugee entries. On top of overstepping his authority, Trump also ignores that, for refugees arriving in America, starting anew is an ordeal that involves massive upheaval. And that comes after having experienced the terror of war and political or religious persecution in their home countries.

Simply getting here involves an arduous process of interviews, paperwork, multiple background checks and fingerprint screenings. Provided an application isn't abruptly denied, the entire ordeal can take two years or more.

If they've managed to overcome the deliberately difficult hurdles and gain entry, refugees then must overcome skeptics here who are convinced they've come chiefly to conspire against America. The text of Trump's order seems designed to encourage social stigma and exclusion: "It is the policy of the United States to protect its citizens from foreign nationals who intend to commit terrorist attacks in the United States."

Statistics show that no refugee has ever been behind any U.S. domestic terrorist attack.

Refugees are often victims of torture, sexual violence and forced isolation. And since immigration officials consider applicants' personal circumstances when granting entry, it's often those who've had it worst who join our communities. The memories don't go away when they get here but linger as PTSD, depression and other signs of trauma.

Finding a good, stable job is yet another hurdle. All refugees are cleared to work in the U.S., but the jobs they can get are often limited by their nontransferable degrees and by how little English many know. Former professionals might find themselves working construction or other blue-collar jobs.

Haphazard employment only makes it more difficult for refugees to pay living expenses. Government assistance and private donations help some, but they often have a hard time even meeting rent.

Rarely do Americans who encounter refugees hear them complain about these experiences. Their lives in the U.S., no matter how difficult, are vastly improved from what they lived through in, say, Syria, Somalia or the Congo. They don't need reminding about the harsh reality of their situations. It's those misled by Trump's theatrics who need educating.

Certain politicians think there are votes to be won by perpetrating the myth that refugees are dangerous, exploitative and better left in their ravaged home countries. Not only does this foment greater resentment and fuel the image of Americans as hard-hearted, it also makes life that much harder for refugees whose suffering goes beyond anything we in this country could possibly imagine.

The U.S. Supreme Court could ultimately decide the fate of Trump's ban, or he could rewrite it and impose it anew. But America has far less to fear from refugees than from unchecked presidential power.

(c) 2017 St. Louis Post-Dispatch



## Chaos as variety of resistance blasts Trump

The scariest new catchphrase of the Trump era—and we're only one month in—is the "deep state," a term borrowed from countries like Turkey and Egypt, where networks of military officers and intelligence operatives control much of the government.

Last week, President Trump complained that "illegal leaks" from the FBI and other intelligence agencies forced him to fire his national security advisor, Michael Flynn.

The leaks revealed that Flynn had secretly discussed U.S. sanctions on Russia with the Russian ambassador, then falsely claimed he hadn't. The talks didn't bother Trump; the leaks did.

"The real scandal here is that classified information is illegally given out by 'intelligence' like candy," he tweeted. "The spotlight has finally been put on the low-life leakers! They will be caught!"

Others worried, too. Republican members of Congress condemned the leaks as a misuse of classified information. Critics of the intelligence community, both conservative and liberal, warned that unelected bureaucrats were exerting too much political power.

Was the American deep state, panicked by Trump, revealing itself?

"The intelligence agencies are pretty hard to roll," a former top CIA official told me last week. "These guys are trained to manipulate people and overthrow governments, and they're rather good at it."

But no, this wasn't the deep state seizing power. We're not there yet.

In a country controlled by the deep state, members of the armed forces and intelligence agencies can overthrow presidents they don't like; that's what happened in Egypt in 2013. They hold veto power over major decisions. They often run large parts of the economy, or at least enough government contracts to make their families rich. And they're rarely held accountable for their actions. They act with impunity.

U.S. intelligence agencies, on the other hand, are restrained by law. Sometimes they overstep, but eventually they are reined in. The officials who leaked the details of Flynn's conversations knew that Trump would order the FBI to track them down. They put themselves at risk.

Trump's problem isn't the deep state; it's the broad state. He's facing pushback not only from intelligence agencies, but from civilian bureaucracies, too.

When his White House staff drafted an executive order to reopen CIA "black sites" and reintroduce torture, it leaked—and the decision was promptly put on ice.

When they drafted another order to repeal protections for LGBT federal employees, that leaked too—and the president's daughter and son-in-law reportedly blocked the idea.

When Trump banned travel from seven predominantly Muslim countries, the attorneys general of several states sued, and

**By DOYLE McMANUS**  
Los Angeles Times



Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com

federal courts blocked the order's enforcement.

There have been less-dramatic forms of defiance, too. Bureaucrats in the State Department and Environmental Protection Agency have signed petitions protesting the new administration's policies.

In a different category, Trump's own Cabinet appears to harbor a modest dose of dissent: Defense Secretary James Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson sound distinctly less enthusiastic than their boss about cooperating with Vladimir Putin.

Just about every segment of the federal government has struggled against White House actions it didn't like, and when you add up all those varieties of resistance, it begins to look almost like a Resistance. But—and this is crucial—there's no central power organizing or directing the fight.

It's not unusual for a new Republican administration to encounter recalcitrant bureaucrats in domestic agencies like the EPA, or for a Democratic president to clash with hawks in national security agencies. In 2009, for example, President Obama believed the Pentagon tried to force him to send more troops to Afghanistan than he wanted.

But Trump and his chief theoretician, Stephen Bannon, have taken aim at both sides: not only Democratic bureaucrats, but also much of the Republican establishment. The bureaucratic resistance they've met has been unusually bipartisan.

The result, especially in the wake of Flynn's ouster, has been chaos. The National Security Council is leaderless and understaffed. Domestic agencies are gripped by uncertainty, too, a state that induces self-protective bureaucrats to move even more slowly than usual.

"The main danger in a Trump presidency is not that it will be too strong, but that it will be too weak," Jack Goldsmith, an assistant attorney general under President George W. Bush, argued last week. "The U.S. government cannot work well ... without a minimally staffed, well-organized, energetic, competent executive branch. Right now we don't have such an executive branch."

We may still be heading for several kinds of trouble: an international crisis with an unready NSC, a constitutional crisis if Trump ignores a court order he dislikes. But a shadow government?

It's a peril to guard against, to be sure—but it's far from the biggest danger we face.

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Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Scams against immigrants

### THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" focuses on the issue of scams against immigrants: There are scams that target people who are trying to immigrate to the U.S. You can lose money in those scams. These scams also can hurt your chance to immigrate. Learn how to avoid a scam.

#### How can I avoid scams in the immigration process?

- Do not go to a notario, notario público, or a notary public for legal advice. In the U.S., notarios are not lawyers. They cannot give you legal advice.
- Never pay for government forms from the U.S. government. Government forms are free.
- Get immigration information from U.S. government websites. You might see a website that looks like it is from the government. Make sure that the website address includes .gov. That means the website is from the U.S. government.

## Reversing the decline in America's economic freedom

Economic freedom has been on the rise in many countries around the globe. So why has it been declining here in the United States?

The Heritage Foundation's 2017 Index of Economic Freedom is out, with its country-by-country assessments, and it shows the U.S. rating has dwindled to its lowest level in the index's 23-year history. The Washington-first, big-government policies of the past eight years have essentially wiped out a decade of progress.

This decline affects all of us. Economic freedom transcends the market. It's a vital element in creating a society that values and advances opportunity and personal progress.

A true free market is more than just an arrangement of voluntary economic relationships. It's a proven source of dynamic growth and upward social mobility. Its principles are written into our national DNA: empowerment of the individual, equality before the law and open competition.

Ironically, the rising levels of economic freedom we observe around the world are thanks in large part to the historical record of the United States in promoting and defending freedom. Yet the recent record of the U.S. in the index—the undeniable trail of declining economic freedom?—is a serious cause for alarm.

So what is the source of this downward trend? The U.S. is lagging because of deteriorations in certain key policy areas. Increased tax and regulatory burdens, aggravated by favoritism toward entrenched interests, have undercut America's historically dynamic entrepreneurial growth. They've confined the U.S.

## It's up to us to uphold the norms that our president flouts

By MARY R. ROSE  
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

The esteem of the American presidency recently hit another low point when President Donald Trump tweeted his displeasure with Nordstrom because of its decision to stop carrying merchandise from the company bearing daughter Ivanka Trump's name.

A few days later, Kellyanne Conway compounded the problem by explicitly urging Fox News viewers to buy Ivanka's products. Although the president's initial outburst seems to have had only a brief dampening effect on Nordstrom stock's value, the collateral harm from all these events is more worrying, more widespread and longer-term than market price concerns.

The most serious risk from this affair, and others we are likely to see in the future, is to people's perceptions and expectations.

In terms of formal laws, we exempt the president from many conflict-of-interest regulations, a practice that reflects the awesome power and complexity of the office. While we forbid, for example, the secretary of energy from having

#### What else can I do to protect myself?

- Never sign a form that is blank. Never sign a form that has false information in it.
- Do not let anyone keep your original documents, like your passport or birth certificate.
- Keep a copy of every document you turn in. Keep a copy of every letter you get from the U.S. government.
- You will get a receipt when you turn in your forms. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service will give it to you. Keep the receipt. You will need it to check on your application.

#### How can I get help with immigration?

1. Immigration can be complicated. It can feel frustrating until you find the right kind of help.
2. Get free immigration forms: visit [uscis.gov/forms](http://uscis.gov/forms)
3. Call USCIS at 1-800-870-3676
4. Learn who can help you and where to find help: Pick up the free brochure from the Federal Trade Commission, called "I Need Immigration Help. Who Can Help Me?," which is available at the OAG (on Capital Hill). Or find the brochure online at [ftc.gov/immigration](http://ftc.gov/immigration).

#### What if I paid someone who did not help me?

#### What if I paid someone who did not help me?

Immigration scams are illegal. Report what happened to the OAG and/or the FTC:

- Call the FTC at 1-877-382-4357
- File a consumer complaint with the OAG and/or with the FTC available online at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint)

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program aims to provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request one by email from [consumer\\_counsel@cnnmioag.org](mailto:consumer_counsel@cnnmioag.org). After completing the consumer complaint, please submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

*Michael J. Cyganek is consumer counsel of the Office of the Attorney General.*

## Anthony B. Kim

The Heritage Foundation



*Anthony B. Kim is a senior policy analyst in the Center for Free Market and Regulatory Reform at The Heritage Foundation.*

economy to the rank of only "mostly free."

There is no doubt that America's dwindling economic freedom has a human toll. Families, businesses and community organizations across America—what the 18th-century philosopher Edmund Burke dubbed the "little platoons" of society—have been squeezed by the government's assault on our economic freedom.

Despite the ongoing recovery, the economic damage has been extensive. Its legacy includes subpar growth, mediocre business investment and fewer job prospects—particularly for the poor and less skilled.

This is the current status of the nation, and there is no use in denying it. However, it is critical that we understand that the economic reality America confronts is neither a statement of fate nor a forecast. The future is open to recovery. Crafting a better economic future will necessitate a return to the ideas that helped animate our founding: limited government, individual liberty with responsibility, and free enterprise.

Success depends, however, on understanding that economic and cultural factors are inextricably interwoven. Policies that advance economic freedom expand opportunities for workers in all walks of life. The culture of family and community also surely affects the extent to which individuals take advantage of their opportunities. As the late William E. Simon, a former Treasury secretary and a staunch advocate of liberty, once noted:

"(T)he true concept of economic freedom must be understood to be far deeper and richer than the mere absence of restraint, or the

license to do as one pleases. The only defensible kind of economic freedom is freedom coupled with a sense of moral responsibility to one's community and country, to the values that bind us."

Fortunately, the greater calling for conservative solutions on many policy fronts in recent years points to new hope for revitalizing America's economic freedom. That work will surely entail the rise of a new generation of leaders willing to relearn the crucial linkage among economic freedom, personal responsibility, opportunity and empowerment.

Analyzing economic trends is a critical first step toward inspiring the resolve to get America back on track and reinvigorate the free-market dynamism that ensures opportunity for all but favoritism to none. Now is the time to rebuild and deploy America's principled policy toolkit. The 2017 Index of Economic Freedom serves that goal.

stock in energy companies, what rule could ever ensure that a president, who is in charge of all departments, is conflict-free? For this reason, we have relied historically on informal mechanisms—or norms—to ensure that we can trust our president to act for the good of the nation rather than out of self-interest.

Trump has refused to take the voluntary steps his predecessors did by fully divesting from his business interests, nor has he made his tax records public so that people can see exactly where sources of potential conflicts lie. Previous presidents did not publicly bully an American company over a business decision that cut off money to a family member, but Trump flouts all such conventions.

Norms retain their power when they are, well, "normal," routinely considered as a guide to expected behavior. When we call out people for deviating from norms, we prove the norm and its expectations still exist.

Republicans have largely abstained from using their influence to criticize the president and thereby uphold norms of anti-corruption.

Others have attributed the outburst to a father's instinct to protect his daughter, but that argument is oblivious to the fact

that chivalry and concerns for family honor exemplify rather than explain away the conflict. The silence and hemming risk making it seem that we expect this of presidents.

It thus falls on the public, you and me, to uphold the norm. In this new administration, concerned citizens must hold on to beliefs that psychologists know will be exceedingly difficult to maintain simultaneously: accept that this behavior is "normal" for Trump—in the sense of it being routine and likely to be repeated, and unlikely to be sanctioned—but not normal or appropriate for the presidency, which includes presidents to come.

We must continue to push for Trump to dial back using his office for his own gain, but if that does not come to pass, we cannot allow him to set the norms for those to come. Otherwise, we risk falling into the trap of believing that this is just what powerful people do. That spells the end for any remaining legitimacy afforded the office of the president.

We must remember that these recent events are not normal and never should be.

*Mary R. Rose is an associate professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin. She wrote this for The Dallas Morning News.*

# The Weather

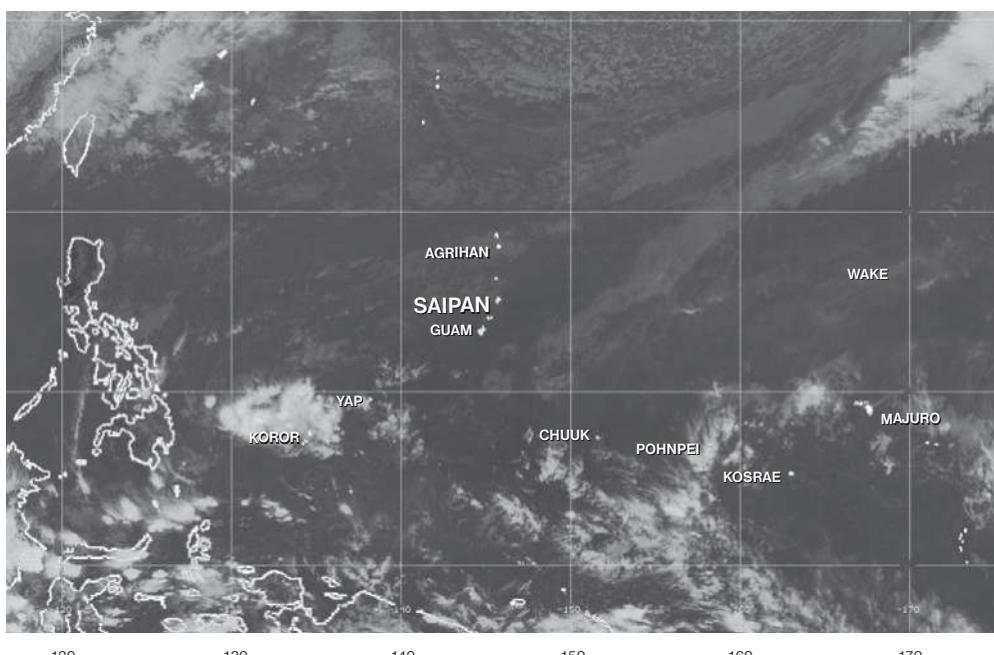
## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.			

▲ 87°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°
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## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 7:17 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Dry season style trade-wind regime is currently dominating the Marianas weather, and it looks likely to stay that way through the rest of this week at least. Most available numerical model guidance is showing an increase in winds tonight. This would not affect the land zones so much because of decoupling, it could affect the water zones though. All will depend on exactly how much the increase is. If it is only 2 or 3 knots it is barely worth mentioning. However, most models are suggesting it could, however briefly, hit small craft advisory criteria. Since it would be very marginal and quite short lived, will leave that decision for the afternoon package. We could then have another small craft advisory next week, so mariners beware.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)*

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Showers	85		78 °F
Palau	Partly cloudy	85		78 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	87		71 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85		80 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86		79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86		79 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84		80 °F

## AROUND THE GLOBE

		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	77		62 °F
Beijing	Sunny	50		24 °F
Hong Kong	Overcast	66		56 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy skies	78		67 °F
London	Cloudy	51		36 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	64		45 °F
Manila	Generally fair	92		75 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	91		55 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy skies	79		63 °F
New York	Fog	62		52 °F
Osaka	Cloudy	58		38 °F
Paris	Windy	52		39 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	42		22 °F
Rome	Mostly cloudy	59		49 °F
Salem	Partly cloudy	45		31 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	53		43 °F
Seoul	Sunny	36		18 °F
Tokyo	Windy	63		41 °F
Washington, DC	Fog	73		54 °F



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:  
 ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone  
 ■ \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone  
 ■ Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
6:33 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.68
11:54 AM	LOW TIDE	1.11
4:57 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM
Monday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:41 AM	3:23 PM	-
Friday	4:30 AM	4:16 PM	-
Saturday	5:18 AM	5:10 PM	-
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:05 PM	-
Monday	6:52 AM	7:00 PM	-

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 10, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b>			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>				<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>			
DL297 4:10pm 7:05pm Daily				DL298 10:20am 2:55pm Daily			
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>				<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
TW308 2:35am 6:25am Daily				LJ651 8:25am 1:45pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				ZE581 10:15am 3:35pm Daily			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				7C3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily			
OZ628 3:50am 7:40am Daily				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
7C3403 4:35am 8:30am Daily				TW307 8:15pm 1:35am+1 Daily			
LJ652 3:10pm 7:05pm Daily				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			

# Business

## Wal-Mart keeps working to make inroads against Amazon

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The nation's largest retailer keeps working to make headway against the largest online seller.

Wal-Mart drew more shoppers to its namesake stores in the United States and its online sales soared 29 percent in the fourth quarter, which covers the critical holiday shopping season. That's an indication that its efforts to lower prices and improve web services are helping it compete better against Amazon, which has built fierce loyalty with its Prime two-day shipping program.

Like other traditional retailers, Wal-Mart has been trying to improve its online operations to challenge Amazon, which accounted for 33 percent of total U.S. online sales last year, according to the research firm Euromonitor. Wal-Mart moved into second place last year ahead of eBay, accounting for 7.8 percent of online sales, up from 7.4 percent in 2015. But Wal-Mart's online sales still only account for about 3 percent of its global sales, or about \$14 billion. That compares with \$94 billion in global net product sales



In this May 9, 2013, file photo, a worker pushes shopping carts in front of a Wal-Mart store in La Habra, Calif. AP

### United, American begin selling cheaper economy-class fare

**DALLAS** (AP)—American and United have started selling cheaper “basic economy” fares as they battle discount airlines for the most budget-conscious travelers.

American announced early Tuesday that it began selling the new fares for flights starting March 1 on 10 different routes from its hub airports in Dallas, Miami, Philadelphia and Charlotte, North Carolina.

United followed suit later in the day, posting reduced fares on some flights from Minneapolis to seven of its hub cities including New York, Chicago and Los Angeles for travel starting April 18.

Basic economy fares come with severe restrictions. Buyers can't pick a seat when they buy the ticket, they're in the last group to board, and they can only carry a small item that fits under their seat. With a few exceptions, they must pay extra to check a wheeled bag that other economy-class travelers can put in the overhead bin.

But the fares are cheaper.

The savings over a regular economy ticket appear to range from about \$24 to \$40 for a round-trip ticket on American and United. For example, on two random early-March itineraries between

for Amazon.com.

The holiday shopping season was tough for many retailers, underscoring the changes they need to make. Macy's reported another quarter of sluggish sales, even as it's been scrambling for new ways to bring shoppers in and beef up online services. And Target Corp., one of Wal-Mart's main rivals, warned last month of weak sales for the holiday season. It reports final figures next week.

“We believe Wal-Mart is

continuing to generate critical and increasing traction online,” said Moody's retail analyst Charlie O’Shea.

Wal-Mart has retooled its online shopping programs and bought up some smaller companies with online strengths. And its aggressive effort to harness the power of its huge number of stores with its online business is starting to take form.

“We’re moving with speed to become more of a digital enterprise and better serve our customers,” CEO Doug Mc-

Millon said in a statement.

Last year, Wal-Mart spent more than \$3 billion for Jet.com in a deal aimed at helping it attract younger and more affluent customers. Since then, it purchased online footwear retailer ShoeBuy.com for \$70 million and the outdoor and gear seller Moosejaw for \$51 million. These sites are operating as stand-alone sites. Wal-Mart last year also raised its stake in JD.com, China’s No. 2 e-commerce site.

Marc Lore, the founder of

Jet.com who is now CEO of Walmart.com, said Tuesday the company is still looking for new startups to buy. Under Lore, the company has quadrupled the number of items available on its third-party online marketplace to more than 35 million.

Wal-Mart said it's working to accelerate the integration between Wal-Mart.com and Jet.com, and trying to take advantage of its scale in areas like shipping and sharing its product selection.

### Wells Fargo fires 4 senior managers in sales scandal inquiry

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Wells Fargo's board of directors fired four senior managers as part of its investigation into the bank's sales practices scandal.

Tuesday's announcement is the first public firing of managers and executives since Wells acknowledged in September that its employees opened up to 2 million bank and credit card accounts without customer authorization in order to meet lofty sales goals.

When the scandal first broke, Wells had said it had fired roughly 5,300 employees as a result of the scandal, the vast majority of them lower-level workers. Numerous branch employees have said that intense sales pressure from senior managers was at least partially why

they were driven to open the accounts.

The board said the four executives being terminated, effective immediately, were Claudia Anderson, the former community bank chief risk officer; Pamela Conboy, the lead regional president in Arizona; Shelly Freeman, the former regional president in Los Angeles; and Matthew Raphaelson, head of the community bank's strategy and initiatives. The board said the decision was unanimous.

The board also voted to deny any 2016 bonuses to the executives, and they will forfeit any unvested stock and stock options.

Wells' board has been conducting its own investigation into the scandal. That inquiry is expected to be finished by

fore the company's annual shareholder meeting in April, the board said.

The four executives fired represent markets and parts of Wells that were among those believed to be most deeply involved in the unethical practices.

Anderson has been on unpaid leave since mid-September, a spokeswoman for the bank said. As the community bank's chief risk officer, she had been in charge of the committee that in theory should have raised the alarm sooner to any questionable or illegal behavior.

Conboy worked for Wells Fargo for more than 37 years, according to her LinkedIn profile. Arizona was an area disproportionately affected by the sales practices scandal.

Freeman had been with Wells Fargo since 1996, serving in numerous roles at the bank. She had been promoted to Wells' head of consumer credit solutions in 2014, but served as president of the Los Angeles market before then. Southern California was where news of the unethical sales practices started, following an investigation by the Los Angeles Times. Notably, Freeman received promoted a year after the newspaper's 2013 investigation.

Raphaelson had been with Wells since at least 2003, according to his LinkedIn profile, heading up strategy and initiatives at the bank. In that role, he would have been partially in charge of designing sales programs and new products.

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# Nation

## After Trump travel ban, immigrants seek to naturalize

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Andres Dorantes has long been content with the green card that lets him live in the U.S. and work as a tattoo artist in Los Angeles.

That changed when Donald Trump became president and swiftly made executive orders to crack down on immigrants and ban travel from certain countries. Dorantes, a Mexican immigrant, made an appointment at a naturalization workshop to start the process of becoming an American citizen.

"I wanted to do it for a long time but I was always busy," said the 33-year-old Dorantes, who came to the U.S. a decade

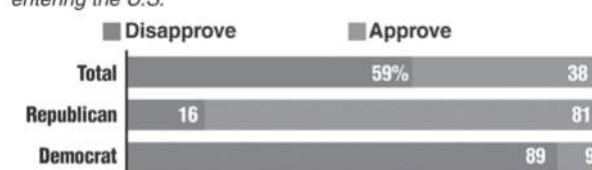
ago after his father sponsored him for a green card. "Now, I see what is happening - everything is crazy."

Since last month, immigrants have been rushing to prepare applications to become U.S. citizens. Legal service organizations in Los Angeles, Maryland and New York catering to diverse immigrant communities from Latin America, Asia and the Middle East all said they've been fielding a rising number of calls and questions about how to become a citizen.

The wait time has doubled for a spot at a monthly naturalization clinic focused on Asian immigrants in Los An-

### Approval of Trump's refugee policy

*Percent who \_\_\_\_\_ of policy to stop refugees and to prevent people from seven majority-Muslim countries from entering the U.S.*



*Percent who say the Trump administration did an \_\_\_\_\_ job communicating and putting into effect the executive order*



Source: Pew Research  
Graphic: Tribune News Service

geles. Since Trump's executive orders on immigration, the number of immigrants inquiring about citizenship has also doubled at a Muslim organization in Southern California and at Latin American-focused groups in Maryland and New York, advocates said.

The growing interest in

citizenship follows a surge in naturalization applications last year amid Trump's anti-immigrant campaign rhetoric and ahead of a December increase in filing fees. Nearly 1 million people applied to naturalize during the 2016 fiscal year, the largest number in nine years, government data shows.

## Federal judge blocks Texas cutting Medicaid to Planned Parenthood

**AUSTIN, Texas** (AP)—A federal judge ruled Tuesday that Texas can't cut off Medicaid dollars to Planned Parenthood over secretly recorded videos taken by anti-abortion activists in 2015 that launched Republican efforts across the U.S. to defund the nation's largest abortion provider.

An injunction issued by U.S. District Sam Sparks of Austin comes after he delayed making decision in January and essentially bought Planned Parenthood an extra month in the state's Medicaid program.

Texas is now at least the sixth state where federal courts have kept Planned Parenthood eligible for Medicaid reimbursements for non-abortion services,

although a bigger question remains over whether President Donald Trump will federally defund the organization.

Sparks' decision preserves what Planned Parenthood says are cancer screenings, birth control access and other health services for nearly 11,000 low-income women at 30 clinics. Texas originally intended to boot Planned Parenthood in January but Sparks told the state to wait pending his ruling. Arkansas, Alabama, Kansas, Mississippi and Louisiana have also had similar efforts blocked.

Sparks' unsparing opinion excoriated Texas for not providing "any evidence" of Planned Parenthood wrongdoing and stalling on the ouster for nearly a year.

## Hundreds rescued from California floodwaters in San Jose

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** (AP)—Rescuers chest-deep in water steered boats full of people, some with babies and pets, from a San Jose neighborhood inundated Tuesday by water from an overflowing creek.

Further north, farmers used tractors to shore up an endangered levee in California's agricultural heartland, officials opened a spillway at the Don Pedro reservoir for the first time in 20 years, and a Sierra Nevada highway threatened to collapse after the latest downpours swelled

waterways, leaving nearly half of the state under flood advisories.

In San Jose, at least 225 residents were taken to dry land and rinsed with soap and water to prevent them from being sickened by floodwaters from the Coyote Creek that had traveled through engine fuel, garbage, debris and over sewer lines, San Jose Fire Capt. Mitch Matlow said.

Rescuers went door-to-door searching for people who needed to leave the neighborhood. Only residents

who could prove they had been cleaned of the floodwaters were allowed to board buses to shelters.

"The water started to seep in the driveway, and then it started to creep up into the front door. It kept getting worse and worse," said Alex Hilario, who walked in knee-high water to get to his car and leave the area.

"We didn't get a chance to get anything out," Hilario added.

Bobby Lee, 15, said he was rescued with his brother and parents, who took clothes,

electronics and some photos from their home in a neighborhood that ended up littered with submerged cars.

"This is like once-in-a-lifetime," Lee said.

Earlier Tuesday, firefighters rescued five people stranded by flooding at a homeless camp along the same creek in San Jose.

Firefighters knocked on doors to tell residents to get out of their homes because the city does not have sirens or another emergency warning system, San Jose spokesman David Vossbrink said.



Rescue crews take out residents from a flooded neighborhood Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017, in San Jose, Calif.

# Asia

## Police: Suspects in N. Korean death coated hands with poison

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** (AP)—The women suspected of fatally poisoning a scion of North Korea's ruling family were trained to coat their hands with toxic chemicals then wipe them on his face, police said Wednesday, announcing they were now seeking a North Korean diplomat in connection with the attack.

Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar told reporters that authorities are searching for two new North Korean suspects, including the second secretary of North Korea's embassy in Kuala Lumpur and an employee of North Korea's state-owned airline Air Koryo.

"We hope that the Korean embassy will cooperate with us, allow us to interview them and interview them quickly,"

he said. "If not, we will compel them to come to us."

Khalid said the women knew they were handling poisonous materials during the attack, which occurred in a departure area of Kuala Lumpur's budget airport, and had practiced the attack multiple times.

"We strongly believe it is a planned thing and that they have been trained to do that. This is not just like shooting a movie," he told reporters.

Khalid couldn't confirm whether North Korea's government was behind the Feb. 13 death of Kim Jong Nam, the longestranged half brother of North Korea's ruler, but added,

"What is clear is that those involved are North Koreans."

Police have already arrested four people in connection with



Malaysia's Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar, center left, speaks in front of the details of one of the suspects Hyon Kwang Song as Selangor Police Chief Abdul Samah Mat, center right, listens during a press conference at the Bukit Aman national police headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017.



Source: AP

Graphic: TNS

Jong Nam, believing she was taking part in a comedy prank TV show. One woman is Indonesian; the other is Vietnamese.

Police were already searching for five additional North Koreans in connection with the attack, though four are believed to have fled Kuala Lumpur shortly after the attack and are now believed to be back in Pyongyang.

Authorities believe those four provided the toxin. "That's why we asked the North Korean Embassy to trace them and hand them over to us." He said, though, that Malaysian authorities had received no help so far from North Korea.

## Chinese premier appeals to Washington to avoid 'trade war'

**BEIJING** (AP)—China's No. 2 leader expressed hope that disputes with U.S. President Donald Trump's government can be settled amicably and warned a "trade war would benefit nobody."

Despite Trump's promises to raise duties on Chinese goods, Premier Li Keqiang said Beijing has a "stable, optimistic outlook" on trade with the United States.

Li took the unusual step of making an impromptu statement Tuesday to reporters during an appearance with his French counterpart, Bernard Cazeneuve.

"Let the figures do the talking," the premier said, citing American jobs supported by U.S.-Chinese trade.

"We have faith that, with mutual respect and on the model of cooperation through equality, issues of trade friction can be resolved amicably," Li said. "A China-U.S. trade war would benefit nobody, (and) would not benefit the world."

Trump pledged during his election campaign to raise import duties on Chinese goods to 40 percent but has yet to take formal action.

Trump argues that the existing order has short-changed Americans by exposing them to unfair competition with low-wage foreign laborers and to unjust trade practices by China and others.

His promise to raise import barriers has given Chinese leaders an opening to present themselves as champions of free trade, though other governments have said theirs is the most closed major economy.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Suicide bombers kill 6 outside court in northwest Pakistan

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan** (AP)—A group of suicide bombers with grenades and assault rifles struck outside a courthouse in northwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, killing six people in an attack claimed by a Taliban splinter group. The attack was the latest in a wave of militant assaults across the troubled country that has killed over 100 people since last week. The brazen suicide bombings have been claimed by multiple Islamic militant groups. In Tuesday's attack, three attackers hit the courthouse in the town of Tangi in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan. The victims included a lawyer, a child and four police officers, according to Ijaz Khan, a senior police officer.

#### Philippines to deport convicted US pedophile

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippines' Bureau of Immigration said Wednesday it had arrested a convicted American pedophile wanted by U.S. authorities for a string of crimes. Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said 38-year-old Cody Dean Turner was arrested Sunday in his house in northern Tuguegarao City

on the request of the U.S. Embassy. The American, whose passport has been revoked by the State Department, will be deported for being an undocumented and undesirable alien who poses a risk to public safety, Morente said. He will also be put on the Philippines' immigration blacklist.

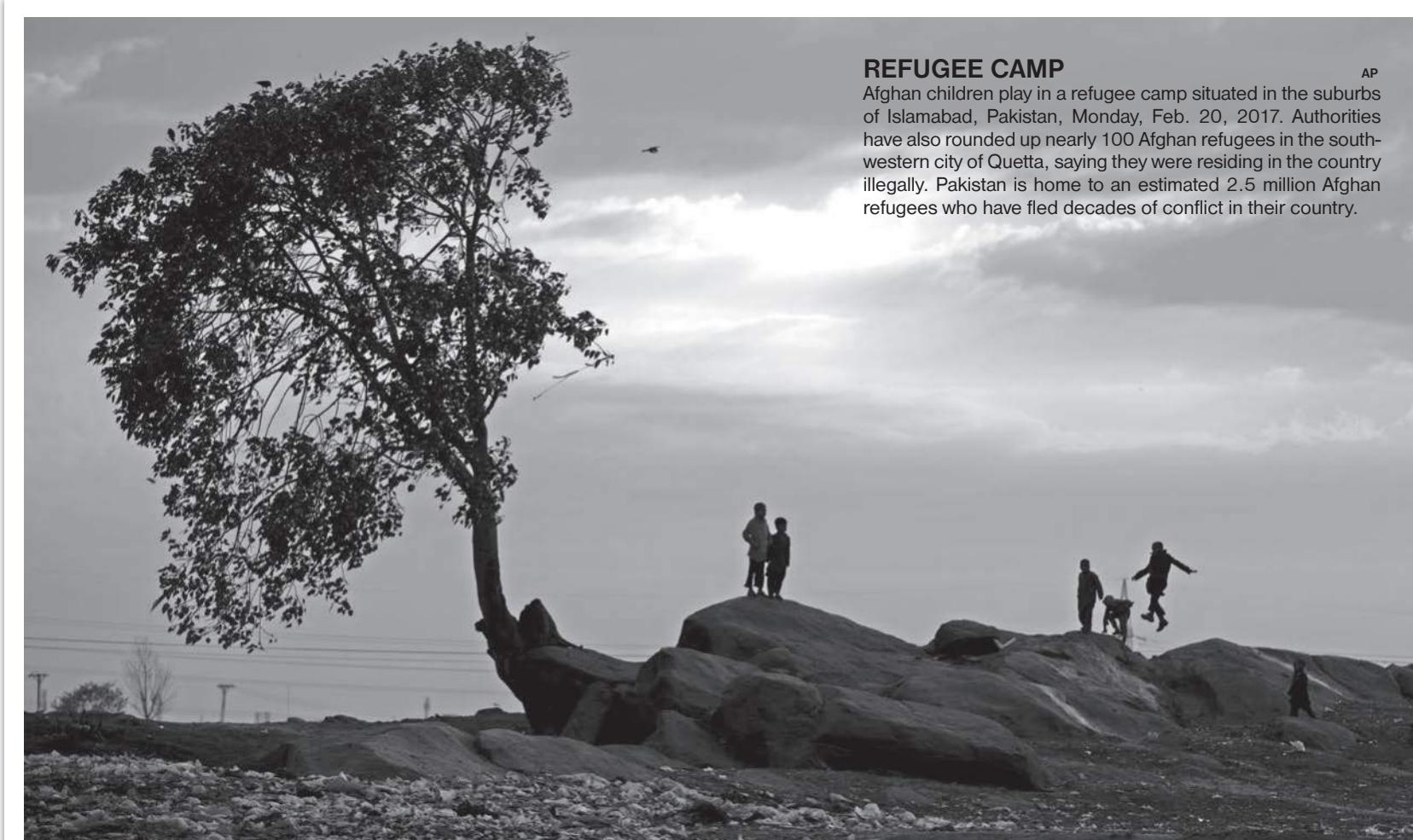
#### Ex-Hong Kong leader gets 20 months in jail for misconduct

**HONG KONG** (AP)—A former leader of Hong Kong was sentenced Wednesday to 20 months in prison for misconduct after failing to disclose plans to rent a luxury apartment for his retirement from

a businessman applying for a broadcasting license. It was a stunning downfall for Donald Tsang, 72, who served as Hong Kong's leader, or chief executive, from 2005 to 2012. He becomes the highest-ranking current or former official sent to prison for wrongdoing in the Asian financial hub, which prides itself on a reputation for clean governance. "Never in my judicial career have I seen a man fallen from such a height," Justice Andrew Chan said as he handed down the sentence in Hong Kong's High Court. "However, it is not in dispute that the defendant has dedicated himself to public service for the past 40 years."

### REFUGEE CAMP

Afghan children play in a refugee camp situated in the suburbs of Islamabad, Pakistan, Monday, Feb. 20, 2017. Authorities have also rounded up nearly 100 Afghan refugees in the southwestern city of Quetta, saying they were residing in the country illegally. Pakistan is home to an estimated 2.5 million Afghan refugees who have fled decades of conflict in their country.



# World

## Trump comments put focus on Sweden's embrace of immigrants

**HELSINKI** (AP)—When a riot broke out in a predominantly immigrant Stockholm suburb this week, the biggest surprise for many Swedes was that a police officer found it necessary to fire his gun.

For U.S. President Donald Trump and his supporters, however, the episode appeared to confirm Trump's vague observation two days

earlier that the Scandinavian country was at risk of becoming a breeding ground for extremist attacks.

It's true that Sweden, which prides itself on welcoming newcomers, is seeing a new kind of urban unrest. The combination of the country's open-door policy and comparatively heterogeneous culture has led to frictions, es-

pecially in areas where many long-time immigrants feel disempowered.

Yet its problems with crime, poverty and violence are no greater—and potentially much less—than in the United States and other countries with home-grown gangs as well as waves of new arrivals—and Trump's focus on Swedish issues has left many

people there puzzled.

This week's trouble started when police arrested a drug crime suspect in Rinkeby late Monday. Rioters threw rocks at police, set cars on fire and looted shops, but no one was injured. Similar episodes of unrest have happened sporadically in Sweden, especially in immigrant neighborhoods.

The flash came two days

after Trump suggested during a Saturday rally in Florida that Sweden could be the next European country to suffer the kind of extremist attacks that have devastated France, Belgium and Germany.

"My statement as to what's happening in Sweden was in reference to a story that was broadcast on @FoxNews concerning immigrants &

Sweden," Trump tweeted after he mentioned at the rally that something terrible had befallen the country the night before.

The president's initial remarks bewildered Swedes—and gave rise to ridicule and a barrage of comment on social media—because no high-profile crimes or tragedies had taken place on Friday night.



## Sentencing of Israeli soldier in shooting deepens fissures

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—An Israeli soldier was sentenced Tuesday to 18 months in prison for killing a badly wounded Palestinian assailant as he lay on the ground, in a landmark decision that deepened fissures in Israeli society and drew Palestinian criticism for being too lenient.

Leading nationalist Israeli politicians called any jail time unfair and urged an immediate pardon, while Palestinians dismissed Israel's justice system as a "joke."

The sentencing of Sgt. Elor Azaria culminated a nearly yearlong saga that has

bitterly divided the country. While Israel's top generals pushed for the prosecution of a soldier they say violated the military's code of ethics, large segments of the public, including politicians on Israel's nationalist right, sided with Azaria. Even Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave only lukewarm support to his military.

Azaria, an army medic, was recorded on a cellphone video last March as he fatally shot a badly wounded Palestinian who had stabbed a soldier in the West Bank city of Hebron. The Palestinian, Abdel Fattah al-Sharif, was lying on the ground unarmed when Azaria shot him in the head.

## Amnesty blames Trump, others in global rollback of rights

**PARIS** (AP)—Amnesty International says "toxic" fear-mongering by anti-establishment politicians, among them President Donald Trump and the leaders of Turkey, Hungary and the Philippines, is contributing to a global pushback against human rights.

Releasing its 408-page annual report on rights abuses around the world Wednesday, the watchdog group described 2016 as "the year when the cynical use of 'us vs. them' narratives of blame, hate and fear took on a global

prominence to a level not seen since the 1930s," when Adolf Hitler rose to power in Germany.

Amnesty named Trump, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte among leaders it said are "wielding a toxic agenda that hounds, scapegoats and dehumanizes entire groups of people."

"Poisonous" rhetoric employed by Trump in his election campaign exemplified

"the global trend of angrier and more divisive politics," Amnesty said.

"The limits of what is acceptable have shifted. Politicians are shamelessly and actively legitimizing all sorts of hateful rhetoric and policies based on people's identity: misogyny, racism and homophobia. The first target has been refugees and, if this continues in 2017, others will be in the crosshairs."

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on the report.

# Environment

By JENNY STALETOVICH  
MIAMI HERALD

**M**IAMI—The number of Florida manatees, both dead and alive, continues to climb.

This week, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission released preliminary results of an annual count that recorded 6,620 manatees lumbering in the warm waters of Florida's lagoons, springs and canals. The count comes a year after federal wildlife officials announced plans to remove manatees from the endangered species list and marks the third straight year that estimated population numbers have increased.

But the aerial survey also reflects a growing trend by manatees to huddle in waters heated by power plants and a similar upward creep in the number of deaths.

Calling waters artificially heated a "real wild card," Katie Tripp, director of science and conservation for the Save the Manatee Club, worries that regulators are relying too heavily on habitat they can't control.

"Some power plants have 1,200 animals, like in Brevard County," she said. "We want manatees to be recovered. But I'm not going to celebrate some artificial victory."

This year's count was conducted by 15 observers who reported ideal conditions for surveying: cool temperatures, clear skies and little wind. The team counted 3,488 manatees on the East Coast and 3,132 on the West Coast. Last year, counters tallied 6,250 manatees. In 2015, they counted 6,063, passing the 6,000 mark for the first time.

The count comes as the number of deaths generally has been trending upward. Last year, 520 manatees died, with 104 killed by boats, a new record. The year before, 405 died. A record 828 deaths were recorded in 2013.

Florida's population of manatees, which move inland during chilly



## Numbers up for Florida manatees, both DEAD and ALIVE

AP  
Manatees find refuge in the warm waters of Blue Spring located at Blue Spring State Park, Orange City, Fla.

winter months, were long hunted for hides and meat but nearly disappeared as Florida boomed and snowbirds flocked to the warm waters inhabited by manatees. By the time a first aerial count was conducted in 1991, surveyors found just under 1,300.

With aggressive efforts by the state and conservationists, including no wake zones to protect the slow-moving mammals, the population

expanded by more than 500 percent, prompting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last year to announce plans to down-list manatees to threatened.

"The relatively high counts we have seen for the past three years underscore the importance of warm water habitat to manatees in Florida," biologist Gil McRae, director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, said in a statement. "The FWC will continue to work diligently

with our many partners to ensure the long-term viability of these habitats and the well-being of the manatee population."

But Tripp said with so many manatees congregating around power plants — six of the manatees' 17 wintering habitats are power plants — the need to preserve their natural habitat in the state's warm springs diminishes. Manatees wintering near power plants also fare worse during

sometimes fatal cold snaps. A 2010 bitter cold snap was blamed for killing up to 500.

"Ideally you have manatees at all natural sites, which you would have protected for them," she said. "The management community has no control over how Florida makes its power or if there's a cheaper alternative or if the plants shut down. ... There's no real reason to think those plants are going to exist forever."

## Florida wildlife officials encouraged by high manatee count

By MARTIN E. COMAS  
ORLANDO SENTINEL

**ORLANDO, Fla.**—Florida wildlife officials are encouraged by the results of a recent survey that counted 6,620 manatees in the state.

It is the third straight year

that the count showed more than 6,000 manatees in Florida. The count was aided by clear water conditions, warm temperatures and sunny weather, said Dr. Holly Edwards, an FWC biologist. That helped a team of 15 observers from 10 statewide organiza-

tions to spot manatees during this year's count.

According to the survey, 3,488 manatees were counted in Florida's east coast, and 3,132 on the state's west coast.

A similar survey last year counted 6,250 manatees. And in 2015, the

survey counted 6,063. The higher than 6,000 manatee numbers can be attributed to favorable weather conditions. Otherwise, manatees won't be counted if they cannot be seen.

State biologists also pointed to recent conservation measures for the high manatee count.

before it goes back to the wild."

Likewise, Noah and his mom, Maedot, traveled nearly 400 miles from Allentown, Pa., to Washington to watch Bao Bao lick honey from the bottom of a storage container.

"It's his favorite place, we had to stop by," Maedot said of her son.

The boy posed next to a life-size cut-out of a panda and joked that the cub was eating his arm.

Even more people tuned in to commemorate Bao Bao's departure virtually.

"Bao Bao we'll miss you terribly," one fan wrote on the National Zoo's Facebook page. "I hope you have a wonderful life in your homeland. Take with you the love of millions here. Tears."

Brown-Palsgrove said the Facebook fan and thousands of others "have been able to watch Bao Bao grow up from the time she was a tiny cub, watching her on our panda cams."

"They feel a part of her life, and want to celebrate that."



Giant Panda Bao Bao plays at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington D.C., on February 16, 2017. Bao Bao's return trip to China began on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017, after a grand send off at the National Zoo.

enclosure Monday to watch Bao Bao eat her heart-shaped ice cream cake.

"We knew it would be crowded

here, and you do the best you can," said Margo Porter of Silver Spring, Maryland. "It's our last chance to see a panda

## National Zoo says farewell to Bao Bao, panda cub headed to China

By NONA TEPPER  
MEDILL NEWS SERVICE

**WASHINGTON**—Will the National Zoo change without Bao Bao?

"Ask the bamboo," joked Noah Tadele, 9, an aspiring veterinarian who was at the zoo Tuesday to say goodbye to Bao Bao, a panda cub headed home to China after four years as the big celebrity at the National Zoo.

Americans across the country joined Noah in person or online to bid farewell at the cub before she left the zoo to participate in China's panda breeding program. Bao Bao, born at the National Zoo Aug. 23, 2013, is part of an agreement with China that requires any giant panda cub born in the United States to be returned to China at around age 4. China owns all the giant pandas in the U.S. and leases them to American zoos.

The National Zoo held a series of parties the week before Bao Bao's

departure to commemorate the cub's time in America — and her love for food, especially bamboo.

Like Noah, Michael Brown-Palsgrove, the zoo's curator of giant pandas, said he'll always remember Bao Bao for her appetite — the 4-year-old eats about 20 pounds of bamboo a day. Evolution has given the pandas a thumb to better grip and eat bamboo, Brown-Palsgrove said. He finds solace in the fact that Bao Bao will soon live in the land of wild bamboo.

"She's going to have the best bamboo in the world," he said of Bao Bao's new home in southwest Chengdu, China.

In the days before Bao Bao's goodbye, some 60,000 panda-lovers attended ice cream cake, dumpling and peach eating parties to commemorate her life at the zoo.

Eating seemed to be the central theme in Bao Bao's farewell celebrations. The Porter family said they waited 40-minutes at the zoo's panda

# Life & Style

## Milo Yiannopoulos apologizes for remarks, quits Breitbart

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Polarizing right-wing writer Milo Yiannopoulos was by turns apologetic for comments he made about sexual relationships between boys and men and adamant he had been the subject of “a cynical media witch hunt” on Tuesday as he spoke after resigning as an editor at Breitbart News.

Yiannopoulos opened his remarks to reporters by saying two men, including a priest, had touched him inappropriately when he was between the ages of 13 and 16.

“My experiences as a victim led me to believe I could say anything I wanted to on this subject, no matter how outrageous,” he said. “But I understand that my usual blend of British sarcasm, provocation

and gallows humor might have come across as flippancy, a lack of care for other victims or, worse, advocacy. I am horrified by that impression.”

The British writer said he was resigning from Breitbart, which helped make him a star, because it would be “wrong to allow my poor choice of words to detract from my colleagues’ important reporting.”

The apology followed days of criticism from fellow conservatives after the release of video clips in which Yiannopoulos appeared to defend sexual relationships between men and boys as young as 13.

In one of them, Yiannopoulos, who is gay, said relationships between boys and men could “help those young boys discover who they are and

give them security and safety and provide them with love and a reliable sort of rock, where they can’t speak to their parents.”

On Monday, he was disinvited from the Conservative Political Action Conference after video of his remarks was promoted through social media.

Publisher Simon & Schuster announced it would cancel the publication of his upcoming book, “Dangerous.” Yiannopoulos said the book had already received interest from other publishers and would still come out this year. He pledged to donate 10 percent of the proceeds to child sex abuse charities.



Yiannopoulos

But he also said the flare-up over remarks made a year ago “is a cynical media witch hunt from people who do not care about children. They care about destroying me and my career and, by extension, my allies.”

Yiannopoulos has long been known for provocative comments about women and Muslims and made his support for Republican Donald Trump clear in the last presidential election cycle. He was the technology editor at Breitbart News, whose former executive chairman, Steve Bannon, is now a senior adviser to Trump, who became president last month.

Before this controversy, Yiannopoulos was perhaps best known for getting banned from Twitter for helping to lead an online harassment campaign against comedian and “Ghostbusters” actress Leslie Jones.

Early in February, he was scheduled to give a talk at the University of California, Berkeley, but the speech was cancelled after violent protests.

Yiannopoulos has appeared, until now, to revel in those controversies and has portrayed himself as a champion of free speech. Tuesday’s apology, he said, was the first he’d ever made.

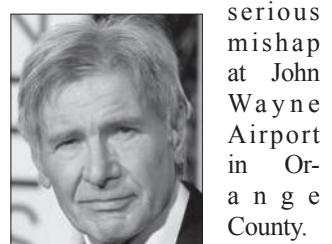
Still, the video clips, he insisted, had been edited to remove important context. He

characterized media reporting on the tapes as unfair and inaccurate.

**Video shows Harrison Ford wrongly flying over airliner**

**SANTA ANA, Calif.** (AP)—Video released Tuesday shows a plane piloted by Harrison Ford suddenly and mistakenly flying low over an airliner with 110 people aboard at a Southern California airport.

The 45 seconds of soundless video show the 74-year-old “Star Wars” and “Indiana Jones” star’s potentially



Ford

serious mishap at John Wayne Airport in Orange County. In it, an American Airlines 737 is taxiing slowly. Then Ford’s yellow, single-engine Aviat Husky suddenly zooms in from the right of the frame, flying low over the airliner and casting its shadow down the middle of the bigger plane before landing on the taxiway.

Ford was supposed to have landed on a runway that runs parallel to the taxiway.

“Was that airliner meant to be underneath me?” Ford asks in previously released sound from the air traffic control tower.

But for the airliner, the taxiway and runway are both wide-open and apparently unmistakable. The video then shows the same landing from the back, giving more time to the approach of Ford’s plane, but the flyover itself is barely visible.

No reason has been given for why Ford made the mistake, and his publicist has not replied to requests for comment.

The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the incident.

American Airlines Flight 1456, with 110 passengers and six crew members aboard, departed safely for Dallas a few minutes later.

Ford collects vintage planes and has a long and good record as an aviator.

But he has had several close-calls and a serious accident in March 2015 when he was injured in his World War II-era trainer as it crashed on a Los Angeles golf course.



### Louvre show: Vermeer was both revolutionary and a borrower

**PARIS** (AP)—His luminous strokes produced masterpieces like “Girl with a Pearl Earring.”

But Vermeer, the unique jewel in Dutch painting’s crown, copied ideas from his contemporaries like every other artist, argues a new major exhibit at the Louvre Museum in Paris that opens Wednesday.

Five years in the making, “Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting” presents a third of the Dutch Golden Age master’s complete opus to the public. It is the biggest

such collection of the old master’s work in Europe in almost two decades.

It shows that, however revolutionary some elements of his paintings were, Vermeer also heavily borrowed from his rivals.

“In a way, Vermeer is not very original because he picks ideas from different contemporaries. His themes are very classical—music-making, lacemaking—that’s been done before,” curator Blaise Ducos told The Associated

Press on Tuesday during a preview of the show.

Ducos said the genius of Vermeer, who died at 43 and produced just 36 paintings, can be seen in how he transformed rehashed themes and techniques.

“He has a distinct, specific psychology. I think there is a mood in Vermeer that you do not find in other paintings,” Ducos said.

Vermeer’s 12 oil paintings in the show, including “The Milkmaid” on loan from Am-

sterdam’s Rijksmuseum, are hung side-by-side with 58 similar works by his 17th-century rivals such as Gerrit Dou and Garard ter Borch.

The exhibit also aims to dispel the widely-held belief that Vermeer was sedentary and seldom left the Dutch town of Delft.

“The show here presents another story ... all the refined paintings here prove that he must have been in touch directly with other painters and other painters,

so both in studios and collectors’ mansions,” said Ducos. “He must have traveled inside the Netherlands.”

The exhibit runs from Feb 22 to May 22 in the Louvre, and will travel to the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. in the fall.

# Judge orders R&B singer Chris Brown to stay away from ex

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A judge has ordered R&B singer Chris Brown to stay away from his ex-girlfriend after she accused him of physically abusing and threatening her.

The Grammy winner was ordered to stay 100 yards away from Karrueche Tran and not attempt to contact her after she wrote in court filings that Brown had repeatedly threatened her since December.

Tran also accused the singer of punching her in the stomach and pushing her down stairs a few years ago. Her filing does not offer any additional specifics or note if she reported the events to police. It states that no one was present at the time.

The order, which was issued Friday, also calls for Brown to surrender any firearms he has until a March 9 hearing on the restraining order.

An email message sent to Brown's attorney Mark Geragos was not im-

mediately returned.

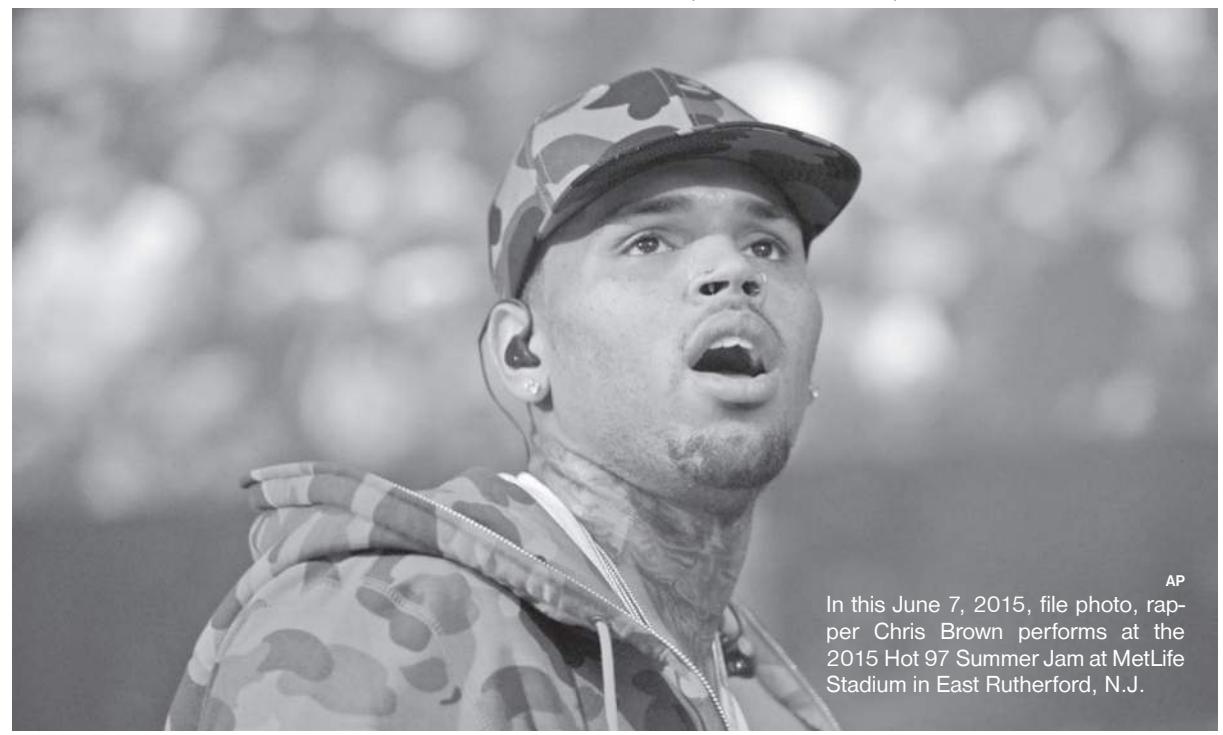
Brown and Tran dated after the singer pleaded guilty to felony assault for an attack on Rihanna in 2009 just hours before the Grammy Awards.

A judge ended Brown's probation in 2015, after several missteps that included punching a man outside a Washington hotel and stints in rehab.

The singer also underwent domestic violence and anger management counseling.

A facility that treated Brown wrote in a 2014 letter to the judge overseeing his probation in the Rihanna case that the singer was being treated for bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and past substance abuse.

Brown's career faltered after the Rihanna attack and eventually rebounded and his album "F.A.M.E." won a Grammy Award in 2012.



AP  
In this June 7, 2015, file photo, rapper Chris Brown performs at the 2015 Hot 97 Summer Jam at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Shooting gets underway for Han Solo 'Star Wars' film

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Alden Ehrenreich has taken control of the Millennium Falcon. The Han Solo "Star Wars" spinoff has begun production. The Walt Disney Co. announced Tuesday that shooting began at London's Pinewood Studios on Monday. To kick off the untitled Han Solo movie, the studio released a photo of the cast at the controls of the Millennium Falcon. Ehrenreich plays a younger version of Harrison Ford's iconic smuggler and is seated amid cast members including Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke and Donald Glover, who plays Lando Calrissian. The film is directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, who helmed "The Lego Movie." In a statement they said, "We can't think of anything funny to say, because we just feel really moved, and really lucky." Disney will release the film in May 2018.

### Tom Hanks' debut book is due in October

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Tom Hanks is putting his love of vintage typewriters to good use—his collection of short stories will be published in October. The Oscar-winning actor's first book, "UNCOMMON TYPE: Some Stories," features 17 stories, each in some way involving a different typewriter. It's due out Oct. 24 from Alfred A. Knopf, the publisher said Tuesday. Among the stories written by Hanks, who owns over 100 typewriters, is one about an immigrant arriving in New York City, another about a bowler who becomes a celebrity and another about an eccentric billionaire. Hanks said in a statement that he began work on the stories in 2015: "I wrote in hotels during press tours. I wrote on vacation. I wrote on planes, at home, and

in the office."

### Cobain's daughter thanks late dad on date of 50th birthday

Kurt Cobain's daughter has paid tribute to the late Nirvana frontman on what would have been his 50th birthday. Frances Bean Cobain posted a brief note on Instagram on Monday. She writes, "You are loved and you are missed. Thank you for giving me the gift of life." Her mother, actress and former Hole singer Courtney Love, posted a picture of Frances as a child on Instagram on Monday, with a note, "Your daddy would be proud of you!" The 24-year-old Cobain was a toddler when her father took his own life at the age of 27 in April 1994. (AP)

### Soulja Boy says boxing match with Chris Brown is off

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—It looks like the highly anticipated boxing showdown between singer Chris Brown and rapper Soulja Boy could be off. Both hip-hop stars announced last month that they signed on for a three-round bout to be televised on pay-per-view and promoted by Floyd Mayweather. On Monday, Soulja Boy said on Twitter that Brown's manager called his manager Sunday to tell him the fight is off and Brown wouldn't be signing his contract. Brown hasn't responded on social media, but announced over the weekend that he will be going on tour beginning March 31. Representatives for Brown and Mayweather didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday. The feud between the artists stems from Soulja Boy's liking of an Instagram picture posted by Brown's ex-girlfriend, Karrueche Tran.

### Soccer star Abby Wambach gets engaged to Christian writer

Retired U.S. soccer star Abby Wambach has announced her engagement to Christian writer Glennon Doyle Melton. Melton posted a photo of two hands flashing diamond rings on Facebook Saturday with the note, "Abby and I decided to hold hands forever. Love Wins." Wambach posted the same photo on Instagram on Sunday. She writes in the caption: "Happy." Wambach announced last year that she was getting divorced from Sarah Huffman after three years of marriage. Melton wrote on her Momastery blog in August that she was separating from her husband. In addition to her blog, Melton has written a pair of best-selling memoirs.

### Artists seek \$1.25 million for Bowie memorial in London

**LONDON (AP)**—Artists and activists want to create a permanent memorial to David Bowie in the London neighborhood where he was born. Plans were unveiled Tuesday for a three-story-tall lightning bolt sculpture, inspired by the cover of Bowie's album "Aladdin Sane." The proposal is to install it across from the Brixton Underground station, beside a mural of Bowie as Aladdin Sane. Charlie Waterhouse, one of the artists behind the idea, says it's meant to be "startling, stupid and utterly joyous in equal measure." Activists are launching a crowdfunding campaign to raise 1 million pounds (\$1.25 million) to build the artwork. The project has local government support. Bowie was born David Jones on Jan. 8, 1947, in Brixton. He died on Jan. 10, 2016 at age 69.

## Freeloading nephew needs to get help and get going

**D**EAR ABBY: My husband's nephew, "Jacob," is 25 and always hanging around our house. He has had a hard time over the last four years. First, his mom committed suicide. Two years later his dad died in his sleep.

My husband and I told Jacob we would be there when he needed advice about things. Well, he recently broke up with his longtime girlfriend, and he's here at my house every day—even days he's not working. He calls every afternoon to see what I'm cooking and expects to eat here every night. He also expects me to drop what I'm doing to go and clean his house and wash his clothes.

I'm disabled, so it's a struggle just to feed my husband and myself. He also sleeps here on the weekends if he doesn't work. My husband and I no longer have any alone time because he's always here.

I have tried to tell Jacob nicely that he needs his own life, but the message isn't getting through. I know he has issues with being alone. He has never learned to be by himself. My husband is starting to get angry about the situation and wants me to "handle" it, but my words are not working. If my husband decides to say something, it will end up in a heated argument.

How can I get through to this kid without hurting him? I do

love him and try to treat him like one of my own kids.

UPSET AUNT

**DEAR AUNT: Talk to Jacob again. This time do it in plain English. Your nephew's dependence on you has persisted for too long, and for everyone's sake it needs to stop. If you haven't suggested grief counseling for him, you should. Explain that you love him, but you and your husband need time to be alone together. Point out that if he's unable to do his own housecleaning and laundry, he should hire someone. Do not feel guilty for speaking up. You have done more than enough for Jacob over the last few years, and for him to expect you to cook for him every night and weekend is over the top.**

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband quit chewing tobacco, but now he chews gum constantly, three pieces at a time. If he's not asleep or eating, his jaw is moving. His chews it aggressively, rolls it around in his mouth while talking, so that it looks bad and is irritating.

He works with the public, and I'm embarrassed for him because I believe it's bad manners to chew gum in that manner. I don't know how to approach him. Please advise as to how I can help him.

EMBARRASSED FOR HIM IN CALIFORNIA

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



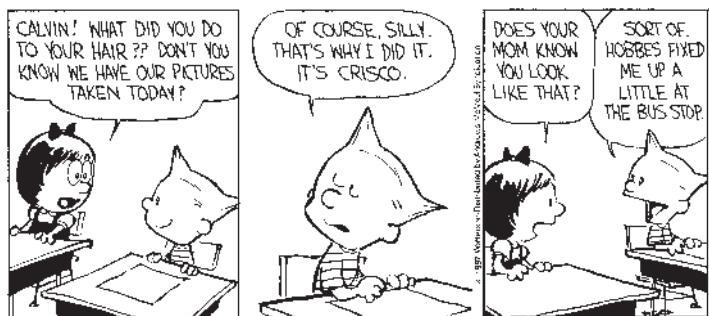
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**DEAR EMBARRASSED: Your husband chews the way he is because he is trying to ease the pangs of withdrawal from his nicotine addiction. Because what he's doing is unsightly, suggest he discuss it with his doctor to see if there are other options such as a nicotine patch to help him over the hump. And be sure to tell him how proud you are of his determination to quit.**

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



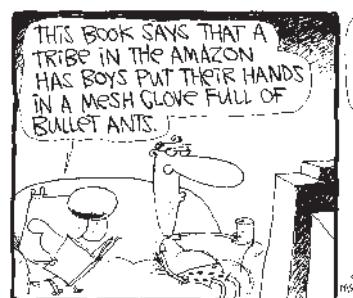
## Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Store sign	DOWN	20	U.K. fliers
1	On in years	38 Rice field	1	Emmy-winner Alan	22 Pleasantly warm
5	Physique	40 Kipling poem	2	Attire	23 Wheelchair access
9	Piratic potion	41 Stickum	3	Seth's son	4 Stations
12	Bowling spot	43 Draws a conclusion	5	Future tulip	24 Plead
13	— Major	47 Bat wood	6	Spanish gold	25 Online address
14	Yucatan year	48 Tart candy	7	"Spring ahead" hrs.	26 Tennis tactic
15	Painter's floor covering	51 Prefix with natal	8	Google competitor	27 Hoover Dam lake
17	Judge Lance	52 Small pie	9	Shower unit	29 Exist
18	Soak up	53 Writer Quindlen	10	Golden rule	30 Coffee vessel
19	"Believe it —!"	54 Perched	11	Academic quota	35 Ball club?
21	Baseball's Cobb	55 Met melody	12	Weep	37 When nothing goes right
22	Wide Chums	56 Calendar	13	Triangular letter	39 Triangular letter
24	Goat's plaint		14	Hostel	40 Hostel
27	Lady of the haus		15	Skillets	41 Skillets
31	Mess up		16	Cruising	42 Cruising
32	Shade tree		17	Tiny bit	43 Tiny bit
33	Bobby of hockey		18	Sea flier	44 Sea flier
34	Amorphous mass		19	Barrett or Jaffe	45 Barrett
36	Music booster		20	Mast	46 Mast
			21	Listener	47 Listener
			22	Hosp. scan	48 Hosp. scan

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-23

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dakota Fanning, 23; Kristin Davis, 52; Patricia Richardson, 66; Peter Fonda, 77.

**Happy Birthday:** Look for ways to do good deeds without being taken advantage of or having it cost you too much emotionally, financially or physically. It's important that you get something in return if you don't want to lose self-respect. Contributions that will benefit everyone including you will bring the highest rewards and boost your confidence and your reputation. Your numbers are 5, 11, 19, 27, 38, 41, 43.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): When in doubt, wait for a positive signal before making a move. Don't make matters worse by provoking others. Bide your time and stay on top of what's expected of you until you feel a change will be beneficial. ☀★

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Don't give away your secrets. Listen, gather information and use what you discover to help you get ahead. Living within your means will ease your stress and give you the flexibility to pursue something that can increase your income. ☀★★★

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Network, schmooze and mingle. What you have to say and to offer will help you expand your interests. Opportunities will be within reach as long as you establish what you want and what you are willing to offer. Don't be shy. ☀★★

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Be reasonable when it comes to holding grudges. Problems from the past will surface if you cannot let go and move forward. Lift the

heavy weight you carry on your shoulders by rid-ing yourself of negative thoughts. Explore new territory. ☀★★

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Put your heart and soul into everything you do and you will bring about positive changes to the way you live, your relationships with others and the choices you are given in the future. Romance will improve your personal life. ☀★★

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Dealing with responsibilities or demanding people will be taxing. Making plans ahead of time will help you avoid mistakes and complaints. Put in the time and you will reap the rewards. A kind gesture will be appreciated. ☀★★

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be inventive and don't be afraid to do things differently. Your insight and intelligence will help you establish what you want to see happen. Try to make a positive impression on the people you need in your corner. ☀★★★★

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your emotions will be difficult to control. If someone complains, avoid taking the bait and arguing. Take pride in a creative outlet you enjoy. Sort through and throw out possessions and personal papers that are no longer relevant. ☀★

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Participating in events that interest you may be enticing, but don't feel the need to make donations you cannot afford. It's important to recognize boundaries before you become entrenched in something that can set you back. ☀★★

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Be reasonable when it comes to holding grudges. Problems from the past will surface if you cannot let go and move forward. Lift the

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Impulsive will be the enemy. Don't feel the need to jump in and defend someone who is making poor choices. You can make suggestions, but don't jeopardize your own integrity, reputation or position. Problems with children or your partner are likely. ☀★★

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look back and you will find a way to use past experience to help you move forward. Love and romance are highlighted, and with a little effort, you can improve your personal life. Someone from your past will influence your future. ☀★★

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Do what you can, but don't compromise who you are or alter the personal goals you set. Use your imagination and you will find a way to satisfy both yourself and those in need of your assistance. Say "no" and offer suggestions. ☀★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are goal-oriented, intelligent and open-minded. You are assertive and helpful.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com). Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](http://twitter/facebook/linkedin).

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2	4		3	7					
5	6		4	8					
9	1	7	6						
8	9	5	4						
7	2	1	9						
4	2		5	8					

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	5	3	4	7	8	1	2	9
8	1	9	2	6	5	7	3	4
2	4	7	9	3	1	6	5	8
4	8	2	7	5	6	3	9	1
5	3	6	1	9	4	2	8	7
9	7	1	3	8	2	5	4	6
1	9	5	6	4	3	8	7	2
3	6	4	8	2	7	9	1	5
7	2	8	5	1	9	4	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

2:23

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

POSITANO HOTELS

Solution: 5 letters

C	I	H	E	R	A	M	A	R	I	M	O	O	R	T
O	A	N	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	S	I	G	E	E
M	T	L	E	O	S	H	U	T	L	E	N	S	N	S
P	U	T	I	C	P	T	Ⓐ	ⓧ	①	T	N	I	I	R
L	A	R	E	F	A	O	R	I	F	I	W	M	D	E
I	O	L	A	P	O	R	S	U	S	R	F	R	E	T
M	Z	E	B	T	U	R	A	A	O	A	F	N	N	
E	Z	T	A	E	E	P	N	S	S	C	A	H	C	I
N	A	O	V	T</td										

# CLASSIFIED ADS



EMPLOYMENT

3 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, minimum salary. Mail resume to Burger & Comer PC at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950

1 Welder, 3 mason, 1 carpenter, 1 electrician, 1 plumber & 2 Gen. maintenance & repair worker, minimum salary. Please mail resume to Blue Lagoon Realty Inc. P.O. Box 505478, Saipan MP 96950 or call 670-288-6903/04 look for Robert.

2 Accountant/ Bookkeeper, 8 Houseworker, 6 Landscaper, 2 waiter/waitress, 2 Heavy equipment operator, minimum salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950.

**WHATZIT Solution:**  
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of a wish<sup>SM</sup>

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*Hasta la vista!*  
**Saipan Tribune**

**K**  
**Kanoa Resort**  
**Saipan**

is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

**(1) A/C REFRIGERATION MECHANIC / TECHNICIAN**

Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration and/or associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or three (3) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Perform a wide array of duties, inspect, maintain and troubleshoot centralized A/C cooling tower. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

**(8) COOK**

Qualifications: High School Diploma, three years actual experience or a combination of two years of education and experience. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Ability to stand for long periods and can lift and carry up to 35 pounds without any assistance. Ability to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than March 07, 2017. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

**Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer**  
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**with Disabilities are urged to apply.**

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Salary: \$ 6.55 per hour

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- Full time with flexible working hours
- Mason

Please mail your resume to  
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MP 96950 or contact our Office  
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between 2:30PM – 9:00PM

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**Qualifications:**

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- Full time with flexible working hours
- Mason

Please mail your resume to  
PMB 654 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM to 9:00PM.

**JAPAN ENTERPRISES CORP.**  
DBA CLUB MICRONESIA**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT****BUILDING MAINTENANCE**

Salary: \$ 6.55 per hour

**Qualifications:**

- At least 2-3 years experience as a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Mason

Please mail your resume to  
P.O. Box 502589, Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel. (670) 233-1545

**ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.****(04) REGISTERED NURSE**

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- One or two years hemodialysis experience or related field
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- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-Service training with Baxter Phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system

Interested applicants must submit applications or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be March 07, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call (670) 234-2901 ext. 128.

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*Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.*

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	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

**REFUNDS**

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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*Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.*

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**WHATZIT?**™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

# Lakers shake-up: Magic is in charge after Kupchak fired

By GREG BEACHAM  
AP SPORTS WRITER

 With the Los Angeles Lakers mired in the worst years in franchise history, owner Jeanie Buss has turned to Magic Johnson to lead them back to championship contention.

And she removed her own brother from his job to do it.

Jeanie Buss fired general manager Mitch Kupchak on Tuesday and put Johnson in charge of basketball operations. Jim Buss also was dismissed as the Lakers' executive vice president of basketball operations in a major shake-up of the struggling team's front office.

Jim Buss retains his ownership stake in the team, but Jeanie Buss has final say under the structure set up by their late father, Jerry Buss. She used it to chart a new course for the 16-time NBA champion franchise, which has the NBA's third-worst record at 19-39.

The Lakers are almost certain to miss the playoffs for a team-record fourth straight season, and they posted the worst record in team history during each of the previous three years.

"It was such a hard decision to make, that I probably waited too long," Jeanie Buss said in an interview on Spectrum SportsNet, the Lakers' television network. "For that, I apologize to Laker fans. Now, with clarity and direction, and after talking with Earvin, a change was needed."

Just 19 days after Johnson returned to the Lakers in an executive role, Jeanie Buss decided the Hall of Fame point guard will be the Lakers' decision-maker in basketball operations despite no experience as a personnel executive. Johnson is the Lakers' new president of basketball operations, reporting directly to Jeanie Buss, and it appears that Johnson is moving quickly to surround himself with a team to help his transition.

According to a person with knowledge of the situation, prominent agent Rob Pelinka has begun informing his clients that he plans to leave



AP

In a Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2016 file photo, former Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson speaks at a groundbreaking ceremony for a stadium which will be home to the Los Angeles Football Club in Los Angeles.

Landmark Sports Agency to become the Lakers GM. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Lakers have not commented on the front office search.

"The status quo wasn't acceptable," Jeanie Buss said. "It wasn't Lakers basketball. It wasn't what this organization stands for."

Johnson said he will put aside his numerous business obligations and his role with the Los Angeles Dodgers, in which he holds an ownership stake, to concentrate on his work with the Lakers. The charismatic former superstar spent the morning fielding calls from general managers and preparing for the trade deadline in two days.

"I'm coming back to an organization that I love," Johnson said. "The timing is right. It was time to put aside my businesses and focus on the Lakers' business."

Johnson has no time to waste. The Lakers are expected to be sellers at Thursday's trade deadline, and Johnson acknowledged teams are very

interested in high-scoring guard Lou Williams, who could fetch at least a first-round draft pick - something the Lakers might not have this year, thanks to years of win-now trades by Kupchak and Jim Buss during the Kobe Bryant era.

Johnson also acknowledged the Lakers were involved in trade discussions for All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins, who went from Sacramento to New Orleans. Los Angeles has plummeted out of contention after an encouraging 10-10 start under Luke Walton, but the rookie coach got a strong vote of confidence from Jeanie Buss and Johnson, who said he "loves" Walton as a coach and an example of the Lakers' championship culture.

Kupchak is a former Lakers center who had been employed by the franchise in some capacity since August 1981. He had been the Lakers' GM since 2000, studying under Jerry West and eventually succeeding him.

"I would like to thank the Buss family for 36 incred-

ible years," Kupchak said in a statement given to The Associated Press. "In particular, I would like to acknowledge Dr. Buss who brought me here as a player in 1981. I also want to thank every Laker player, coach and staff member with whom I have worked and who supported me through the good times and the very few not so good times."

Kupchak had been in the Lakers' front office for 30 years, including the last 17 as general manager—the longest current stretch running a front office in the NBA.

"I'm most disappointed that I won't have the opportunity to continue to work with Luke and watch this young and talented team grow and eventually win in the Laker tradition," said Kupchak, who concluded by sending his best wishes to Johnson and the organization going forward.

Jim Buss had been in the Lakers' front office for 19 years, including 12 in charge of basketball operations alongside Kupchak. The former horse trainer was widely

seen as a dilettante when he moved into a job in the family business, but he worked to deserve the responsibility of making basketball decisions in recent years.

Yet the Lakers have steadily declined from the heights of back-to-back championships in 2009 and 2010. They haven't made the playoffs since 2013, and they've won only 84 of their past 386 games since then.

After an extraordinary trade for Pau Gasol propelled the Lakers to three straight NBA Finals appearances, Kupchak and Jim Buss made a series of high-profile personnel moves that didn't pan out.

In 2012, they made a pricey trade for Dwight Howard, who fled the franchise after one year, and another deal for Steve Nash, who barely played thanks to back woes. The Lakers are still feeling the effects of that deal, which will cost them their first-round pick this summer if it isn't in the top three.

The Lakers finished 17-65 last season, a franchise low in

the last year of Bryant's two-decade run with the franchise.

Pelinka is in line to become the latest player agent to move into an NBA front office, following a similar path as Bob Myers in Golden State and Arn Tellem in Detroit, among others. For years Pelinka has been a league power broker, representing Bryant, James Harden, Eric Gordon and other high-profile players. His addition could also pave the way for Bryant to return to the organization in some capacity.

In order to join the Lakers, Pelinka would have to divest himself from his current clients. Those players could either be represented by another certified agent at his firm or look outside Landmark for representation.

Johnson's return earlier this month made Jim Buss' departure seem quite likely, particularly given Jim Buss' vow several years ago to leave the franchise if they weren't in contention for a Western Conference title by this year or next.

But Jeanie Buss still picked a dramatic way to break up the family business structure.

Johnson has been a successful businessman and investor since his playing career ended, owning pieces of the Lakers, the Dodgers, the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks and MLS expansion franchise LAFC. He dropped his ceremonial title as a Lakers vice president last June after his frequent public criticisms of Jim Buss and former coaches. He also sold his ownership stake in 2010.

The Lakers' recent ineptitude didn't hurt their place as Los Angeles' most beloved sports franchise and a worldwide brand, and they finally have a talented young core with D'Angelo Russell, Julius Randle, Brandon Ingram and Jordan Clarkson. But they haven't been able to translate that potential into wins despite playing an exciting style under Walton.

The Lakers also parted ways with longtime top public relations executive John Black.

The Lakers return from the All-Star break on Friday at Oklahoma City. They face San Antonio at Staples Center on Sunday.

## Lakers trading Lou Williams to Houston for Corey Brewer

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The Los Angeles Lakers have swung their first deal of the Magic Johnson Era, agreeing to send Lou Williams to the Houston Rockets for Corey Brewer and a future draft pick.

Brewer's agent Wallace

Prather confirmed the terms of the trade, which were first reported Tuesday by Yahoo Sports. Neither team immediately revealed the trade publicly.

"Thanx for the love L.A., I've enjoyed my stay," Williams wrote on Twitter.

Williams led the Lakers in scoring at 18.6 points per

game, playing off the bench. Brewer was averaging 4.2 points for Houston.

The trade came hours after the Lakers announced the firing of general manager Mitch Kupchak and put Johnson in charge of basketball operations—part of a massive front office shake-up.

And while the draft pick

will help the Lakers' future, the Rockets just got deeper.

Williams has scored more points off the bench than anyone else in the NBA this season—and Eric Gordon, the newly crowned 3-point shootout champion at All-Star weekend—is No. 2 on that list.

Reserves have three

games of 35 points or more in the NBA this season, all by Williams, all in a dazzling seven-day span in early December. He had 40 points against Memphis, 38 against Utah and 35 against Phoenix.

Williams has also been to the playoffs six times with three different teams, seeing action in 41 postseason contests. He's under contract for \$7 million next season.

Brewer is also under contract for next season, at about \$7.6 million.

"Thanks to everyone in the Houston Rockets organization for my time here," Brewer wrote in a statement released on Twitter. "A special thanks to all the great fans of the Rockets for making this city a special place to live and play."

# MLB to push forward with process for rule changes



**PHOENIX**  
(AP)—Major

League Baseball intends to push forward with the process that could lead to possible rule changes involving the strike zone, installation of pitch clocks and limits on trips to the pitcher's mound. While baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred expressed hope the ongoing process would lead to an agreement, he said clubs would reserve the right to act unilaterally, consistent with the rule-change provision of the sport's labor contract.

Union head Tony Clark said last weekend he did not foresee players agreeing to proposed changes for 2017. Under baseball's collective bargaining agreement, management can alter playing rules only with agreement from the union—unless it gives one year notice. With the one year of notice, management can make changes on its own.

"Unfortunately it now appears that there really won't be any meaningful change for the 2017 season due to a lack of cooperation from the MLBPA," Manfred said Tuesday during a news conference. "I've tried to be clear that our game is fundamentally sound, that it does not need to be fixed as some people have suggested, and I think last season was the kind of demonstration of the potential of our league to captivate the nation and of the game's unique place in American culture."

Yet, he also added: "I believe it's a mistake to stick our head in the sand and ignore the fact that our game has changed



Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred answers questions at a news conference Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017, in Phoenix. AP

and continues to change."

Manfred said while he prefers an agreement, "I'm also not willing to walk away." He said he will send a letter to the union in the coming days and plans to continue dialogue with Clark and others in hopes of reaching agreement.

Clark met with Cactus League teams last week, five at a time over Thursday, Friday and Saturday, before departing Monday for Florida to visit each Grapefruit League club—and proposed rules changes were a topic.

"I have great respect for the labor relations process, and I have a pretty good track record for getting things done

with the MLBPA," Manfred said. "I have to admit, however, that I am disappointed that we could not even get the MLBPA to agree to modest rule changes like limits on trips to the mound that have little effect on the competitive character of the game."

Clark saw talks differently. "Unless your definition of 'cooperation' is blanket approval, I don't agree that we've failed to cooperate with the commissioner's office on these issues," he wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

"Two years ago we negotiated pace of play protocols that had an immediate and positive impact. Last year we took a step

backward in some ways, and this offseason we've been in regular contact with MLB and with our members to get a better handle on why that happened. I would be surprised if those discussions with MLB don't continue, notwithstanding today's comments about implementation. As I've said, fundamental changes to the game are going to be an uphill battle, but the lines of communication should remain open."

Clark added "my understanding is that MLB wants to continue with the replay changes (2-minute limit) and the no-pitch intentional walks and the pace of game warning/

fine adjustments."

Manfred said he didn't want to share specifics of his priorities for alterations.

"There's a variety of changes that can be undertaken," Manfred said. "I'm committed to the idea that we have a set of proposals out there and we continue to discuss those proposals in private."

MLB has studied whether to restore the lower edge of the strike zone from just beneath the kneecap to its pre-1996 level—at the top of the kneecap. Management would like to install 20-second pitch clocks in an attempt to speed the pace of play—they have been used at Triple-A and

Double-A for the past two seasons.

Players also have been against limiting mound meetings. The least controversial change appears to be allowing a team to call for an intentional walk without the pitcher having to throw pitches. In addition, MLB likely can alter some video review rules without the union's agreement—such as shortening the time a manager has to call for a review.

"Most of this stuff that they were talking about I don't think it would have been a major adjustment for us," Royals manager Ned Yost said.

Manfred said starting runners on second base in extra innings sounds unlikely to be implemented in the majors. The change will be experimented with during the World Baseball Classic and perhaps at some short-season Class A leagues. Manfred said it was a special-purpose rule "beneficial in developmental leagues."

Manfred also said Tuesday that a renovated Wrigley Field would be a great choice to host an All-Star Game and Las Vegas could be a "viable market for us."

"I don't think that the presence of legalized gambling in Las Vegas should necessarily disqualify that market as a potential major league city," Manfred said.

**KISSIMMEE, Fla.** (AP)—Jace Peterson starts out the day shagging fly balls in the outfield. Then, he changes gloves and heads to the infield to take some grounders.

Don't try to label this guy with a position.

He can play just about all of them.

"Man, it's fun," Peterson said. "You get to move around the diamond. You get to work everywhere."

Peterson is part of an ever-growing trend on big league rosters: the super sub.

The Atlanta Braves have two of them, in fact.

Peterson can play second base, shortstop, third base and all three outfield positions. Chase d'Arnaud does him one better, having added first base to his repertoire this spring.

"Those guys are invaluable," Braves manager Brian Snitker said.

All over baseball, teams are placing huge importance on those who can play everywhere—especially in an era when teams are carrying at

## Super subs are now key players on pitching-dominated rosters

least 12 pitchers on their 25-man rosters, leaving only four or five players on the bench.

It matters even more in the National League, where pitchers must hit and there are all sorts of lineup issues to deal with over the course of a game.

Pinch hitters. Double switches. Defensive changes.

One of the top priorities for the defending NL East champion Washington Nationals was to re-sign 33-year-old Stephen Drew, who didn't exactly put up huge numbers last season (.266 with eight homers and 21 RBIs) but made starts at second, short, third and designated hitter.

Nationals manager Dusty Baker thinks these are jobs for more experienced players, one who "had some success and knows not to get down when he doesn't have success."

Then again, Cleveland made it all the way to the World Series with a major contribution from 24-year-old

Jose Ramirez, who in his first full big league season played 117 games at third base but also got time in the outfield (84 games), second base (nine) and even shortstop (five).

He hit .313 with 11 homers and 76 RBIs while shifting around to all nine spots in the batting order.

"A lot of times, with young guys, when they struggle, if they haven't done it, you're like, 'Oh man, are they over their head a little bit?'" Indians manager Terry Francona said. "But when they've done it, it's nice to know that."

The World Series champion Chicago Cubs have the best of both worlds, relying heavily on 35-year-old Ben Zobrist and 24-year-old Javier Baez to shift seamlessly between the infield and outfield.

The New York Mets discuss the versatility of their players in the earliest days of spring training, hoping it will pay off when the games re-

ally count. Wilmer Flores has been a starter at every infield spot. This spring, the team is planning to give infielder Jose Reyes some work in the outfield, while outfielder Jay Bruce will spend time at first base. This could be especially important for a team that doesn't know how much it will get from David Wright following neck surgery.

"If somebody goes down, can we move this guy or that guy here?" Mets manager Terry Collins said. "You just never know when all of a sudden you look up, as we saw last year, and we need help. That versatility - if we have it and can make it work - will help us get better."

Kansas City's Whit Merrifield epitomizes the way the game is going.

He spent most of the last seven years in the minors in part because he didn't have a true position. Now, he's a near-lock for the Royals' ro-

ster for the exact same reason. He played 81 games after finally getting called up last season, split between left field, right field, third, second, first and DH.

Texas has its own MVP off the bench with Jurickson Pro-far, a former top prospect who battled injuries and finally made it back to the big leagues for the first time since 2013.

While he had some cringing stretches at first base, where he started 13 games after a very quick lesson, you won't hear any complaints from the Rangers. He also got 15 starts at second base, 16 at third base, 10 at shortstop and eight in left field.

Some players are taking this versatility thing to the extreme.

Christian Bethancourt, who made it to the big leagues as a catcher, is now looking to pitch for the San Diego Padres.

"I've never done that be-

fore, but we created a plan," he said. "I'm getting better on the mound and they clocked me between 94 and 98. My breaking ball now is a cutter, and throw that around 88, 89.

I'm working on a curve and a change."

Jordan Schafer took a similar tack with an eye on extending his career. The 30-year-old outfielder is getting a chance to pitch for the St. Louis Cardinals.

"We're going to make this an opportunity for him to learn and compete, and then figure out how it fits," manager Mike Matheny said.

D'Arnaud, who came up as a shortstop, figures he might already be pursuing another career if not for his versatility.

"I don't know if I'd still be playing baseball if I'd never learned to play the outfield," the 30-year-old said. "It surely has helped out my career being able to play the infield and the outfield."

# Hopwood shuts down FMS in IFL title game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School proved to be too much for Francisco Mendiola Sablan Middle School as seen in the Hilitai's 6-0 victory in the title match in the girls division of the 2016-2017 NMIFA U14 Interscholastic Football League last Monday.

Hopwood's female strikers turned their home pitch into their playground after dominating FSM from start to finish en route to the easy victory in the winner-take-all finals. Katrina Costales anchored Hopwood's demolition of FMS after making a hat trick, while Charmaine Francisco, Leisha Sally, Jenisha Dubrall, and Jerlyn Castillo contributed



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Hopwood Junior High School players and their coaches are joined in the photo by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials during the awards presentation for the 2016-2017 NMIFA U14 Interscholastic Football League last Monday at the Hopwood pitch.

Dubrall, Francisco, Millare, and Sally tallied one apiece.

In the other semis pairing, FMS recorded a 5-2 triumph over Chacha Oceanview Middle School. Keisha Deleon Guerrero stood out in FMS' victory after firing three goals, while Marinell Falalimpa and Nathanette Blas drained the two other goals for the eventual runner-up. Anisa Villagomez scored the two goals for Chacha.

Chacha made it to the semis after placing third in the elimination round with its 1-1-2 win-draw-loss record. It beat Tanapag in the tiebreak for the third spot, while Hopwood and FSM took the Top 2 spots after earning 4-0-0 and 3-0-1 slates, respectively.

In ruling the eliminations, Hopwood totaled 38 goals and did not give up a single goal to its three opponents. By yielding no goals to their foes, including in the two playoff games, Viray was handed the Golden Glove award, while Joyce claimed the Golden Boot plum after collecting 16.

and posted her two other goals in the final half with her second recorded in the 32nd and the last four minutes later. Francisco handed Hopwood its second goal in the 20th minute, while Sally and Castillo found their targets in the 47th and 59th minute, respectively.

With its six goals in the finals, Hopwood collected 53 this season—the most by any team in the league. The Costales-led squad even outgunned Hopwood's boys team (40), which also ruled its division. Included in Hopwood's total goals were the nine it gained in its semis win over Tanapag Middle School last Feb. 10. Joyce earned four of those goals, while Castillo,

Costales put Hopwood on the board in the 13th minute

## CFL

*From Page 28*

hard. Your time will come. ... Our relationship grew outside the court. It was huge for me, especially the first two years."

Mills, the Spurs backup point guard, had a similar experience having fellow Australian Aron Baynes on the roster early in his career. Both played college ball in the U.S., so that helped, but Mills still gets homesick and misses things like the Australia Day holiday each year.

"You're in South Texas and it's very different from Australia," Mills said. "When you can have someone from your own country that can help get you out of that southern twang, it definitely helps."

Teams, and the league, try to make the transition to the NBA easier for all players, but internationals need some special attention. That could be an interpreter and/or English lessons. There's help with visas, green cards, housing, vehicles and other necessities. But there are things that can't be arranged.

The Jazz opened the season with a league-high seven international players and seven other teams began with six. The Spurs have been one of the most active teams in the league when it comes to procuring international talent over the years.

"I think the acclimation into your team and into your structure helps, especially with language or cultural barriers, if there are people that are native speakers," Spurs general manager R.C. Buford said. "Like just this year, when (Argentina native) Nico Laprovittola came and has a teammate like Manu from the national team. I'm sure that that aids in the comfort level of that adjustment."

Diaw and Gobert, both veterans, say having a teammate from their native country can help young players focus on

son—Savali—to play the sport, too. The younger Talalemotu suited up for Beaverton High School's basketball and football teams and just completed his senior year at Portland State University in NCAA Division 1, having played as a defensive lineman for the Vikings.

"He meant everything to me. He was my biggest fan. He drove to every game no matter what. After every sack I would look for him in the stands and we just point at each other. I'm going to miss him terribly," Savali said.

Talalemotu's love for American football influenced his

Besides being active in American football, the older Talalemotu taught at Kagman High School and also served as the head coach of the Ayuyus' varsity men's team in the now defunct Marianas Interscholastic Sports Association in the early 2000s.

Talalemotu, who completed his Bachelor of Science degree in General Science and Mathematics from Seattle University in Washington, moved to Oregon several years ago and taught at Park Academy in Lake Oswego. Details of his death have yet to be released by his family as of press time.

## LEE

*From Page 28*

division, All Stars and 1/2 and Goal Diggers are ahead of their respective pools after the first two playing days.

All Stars and 1/2 held a 2-0 mark following its victory over Swerve Up and That's What She Set in Pool A last Sunday before topping the Blue Dragons last Monday. Danny's Bad Boyz and the Ball Crushers were set to battle Set It & 4Get It again yesterday, while the former dualed the Ball Crushers last Tuesday and results of both matches were unavailable at press time.

In Pool B, there are only three teams with Have Mercy and Aces both beating the Ol'Aces in the first two days of the competition, which has a single-elimination format after the pool play. The playoffs will start tonight, while the championship match will be held this Friday.

Meanwhile, in the women's

is out of the playoffs in the Junior Davis Cup after losing to Jordan yesterday.

Vanuatu's Clement Main-guy and Tahiti's Jeremy Guines dropped both their singles matches, bowing to Abdallah Shelbayh, 5-7, 4-6, and Karam Hatamleh, 3-6, 2-6. Results of the doubles play were unavailable at press time.

The CNMI's Robbie Schorr did not play against Jordan after he and Mainguy fell to Vietnam's Van Phuong Nguyen and Duc Phu Pham last Monday in Pool B, 1-6, 3-6.

Only the Top 2 squads in each of the four pools will move into the playoffs and with its 0-2 record, Schorr and his two other teammates will be relegated to the games that will determine the No. 9 to No. 14 finishers in the pre-qualifier.

## Lean on me: International NBA players supporting each other



**SALT LAKE CITY**  
(AP)—Boris Diaw arrived at his favorite Salt Lake City coffeehouse expecting to meet fellow Frenchman Rudy Gobert, and just smirked when told Gobert was running late.

The two have a big brother-little brother relationship, a bond many international players seek.

"For me it's been better, for sure," Gobert said of Diaw's arrival in Utah. "Just speaking French, makes me feel better. It's a stupid thing, but I needed a French player on the team."

The 7-foot Jazz center is not alone.

A record 113 international players from 41 countries were on opening-day rosters this season and many, from Manu Ginobili to Nikola Mirotic to Patty Mills, go through a significant adjustment playing in a foreign country, speaking a different language and just trying to fit in.

Diaw and Gobert have known each other for years and were members of the French national team in the Rio Olympics. Their comfort level is a significant reason the Jazz are in the thick of the playoff race heading down the stretch after the All-Star break.

Gobert has emerged as a defensive player of the year candidate. He has scored off 190 assists this season and 26 have come from Diaw. That's the third-most from anyone on the team, and Diaw is a power forward averaging the 11th most minutes on the team.

Diaw and Gobert, both veterans, say having a teammate from their native country can help young players focus on

just basketball.

Gobert didn't have to do all the little things when Diaw arrived, like introducing him to the local restaurants. Diaw, a 14-year veteran, is well-versed in the different eateries across NBA cities.

"It was different," Diaw said of his early years in the league, "because there were not that many European players. ... A little bit (of culture shock). Because the only time I came was a couple years before, I came for Christmas to visit Tony (Parker) in San Antonio. That was the only experience I had in the U.S., just coming for vacation. It was a little different."

Ginobili, the veteran Spurs guard, said he would get lonely at times when he was younger with a lot fewer international players in the league.

Mirotic and Diaw both say international players, even those from different countries, tend to stick together on the road. They go to movies and dinners together because they often have similar interests.

The Bulls forward was thankful to have fellow Spanish national team member Pau Gasol on the roster as a rookie in 2014.

"It was different completely," Mirotic said. "Not just basketball. Lifestyle was different. All my life being in Europe, eight years in Madrid.

"The little things, you know. ... My English, first of all, was not that good. It was all different for me. And the game was different for me. At the beginning of the season I didn't play a lot, (Gasol) was always the one telling me Nikola you just need to have patience. You need to practice

# 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic Week 1

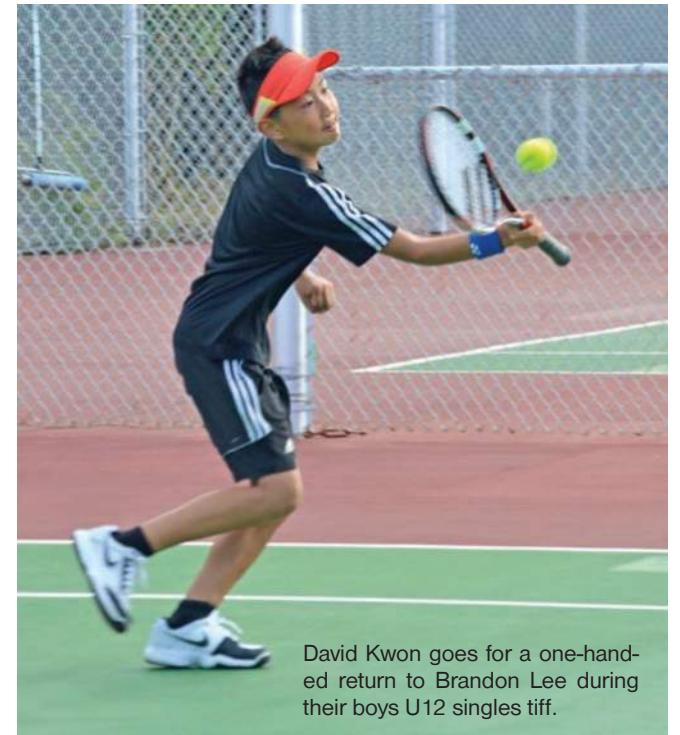
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Helen Kim uses both hands for a return to Seo Hee Lee during their girls U12 singles game in the 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic early this month at the Pacific Islands Club courts.



Seo Hee Lee receives a shot from Helen Kim.



David Kwon goes for a one-handed return to Brandon Lee during their boys U12 singles tiff.



Seung Won Lee makes a baseline return to Jun Wang during their boys U12 singles match.



Jun Wang serves to Seung Won Lee.



Brandon Lee jumps up a return to David Kwon.



Eubin Park eyes a return to Jaeyun Jung during their boys U12 singles duel.



Jaeyun Jung gets ready to serve to Eubin Park.



Lakers shake-up: Magic is in charge after GM Kupchak fired

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

MLB to push forward with process for rule changes

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee, seen here competing in a local tournament last year, is unbeaten in the 2017 Junior Fed Cup Asia Oceania Pre-Qualifying Zone going into today's playoff round in New Delhi, India.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**C**arol Lee and her Pacific Oceania Team are still undefeated in the 2017 Junior Fed Cup Asia Oceania Pre-Qualifying Zone.

Lee, who handed Pacific Oceania victories in the singles and doubles (with Samoa's Eleanor Schuster) against the Philippines last Monday, dominated Tajikistan's Anastasiya Tursunova in the Singles 1 play last Tuesday, 6-0, 6-3, to seal the early win for her team. Tahiti's Naia Guitton earlier downed Nargizakhon Yakhyaeva in the Singles 2, 6-1, 6-0, to give Pacific Oceania the upper hand. Guitton also played in the doubles with Schuster and they beat the Tajikistan duo, 6-4, 6-0, for Pacific Oceanic's second sweep in Pool A.

The three junior players went on to earn a perfect record in pool play as they also swept the then unscathed Vietnam in yesterday's matches at



the R.K. Khanna Tennis Stadium in New Delhi, India. Guitton again played in the Singles 1 and outclassed Thuy Thanh Truc, 6-3, 6-3. In the Singles 2, Lee went up, 3-0, just 15 minutes into her game against Ngoc Minh Phuong Nguyen and cruised to victory after the Vietnamese retired due to an injury. Lee's team then automatically won the lone doubles game, as Nguyen failed to recover and play the last match.

With the sweep and its first place finish in Pool A, Pacific Oceania advanced to the playoffs and will face Pool B second placer Singapore in the semis. Singapore won over Lebanon and Iraq, but missed the top spot in the pool when it fell to Sri Lanka. A victory

over Singapore will ensure Lee and company a ticket to the final qualifying as only the Top 2 teams in the pre-qualifier will advance to the April tournament, which will also take place in India.

The Lee-led Pacific Oceania

made it to the final qualifying tournament last year, but finished at No. 15 out of 16 teams, forcing the squad to play in the pre-qualifying event.

Meanwhile, Pacific Oceania

See LEE on Page 26

## Lee perfect in Junior Fed Cup

### Ball Crushers, Danny's Bad Boyz on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The Ball Crushers and Danny's Bad Boyz earned unbeaten records after two days of competition in the 2017 VolleyTime Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ball Crushers posted a

2-0 record in the early stage of the tournament aimed at raising funds for the Ol'Aces Sports Club. The Jonas Barcinas-led Ball Crushers is in Pool A of the men's division and registered its first win last Sunday against the Blue Dragons. Then last Monday, the Ball Crushers was pitted against Set It & 4Get It and

See BALL on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ball Crushers' Jonas Barcinas tosses the ball during the first set of their game against Set It & 4Get It in the 2017 VolleyTime Tournament last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

### CFL pioneer Talalemotu passes away

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The Commonwealth Football Association lost one of its pillars with the passing of Faafaa "Tala" Talalemotu yesterday in Oregon.

CFLA official John Blanco, in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune*, recalled Talalemotu's contribution to CNMI football since he started playing the sport on Saipan in the early 2000s.

"He was definitely a force to be reckoned with when he played in the Common-



The late Faafaa "Tala" Talalemotu in an undated photo poses in his Predators uniform during a training session for the Commonwealth Football League.

wealth Football League Association. He was part of the first men's tackle football team that played against Guam on March 11, 2000," Blanco said.

The CFLA head added that Talalemotu played in the league for five years with three different teams and won three championships.

"He played for the Budweiser Predators (2001-2003), Shell Chiefs (2004), and the Express Electronics Eagles (2005), picking up three championships along the way—two with the Predators and one with the Chiefs," Blanco said.

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